

Bush blocks \$30-M US military assistance to RP

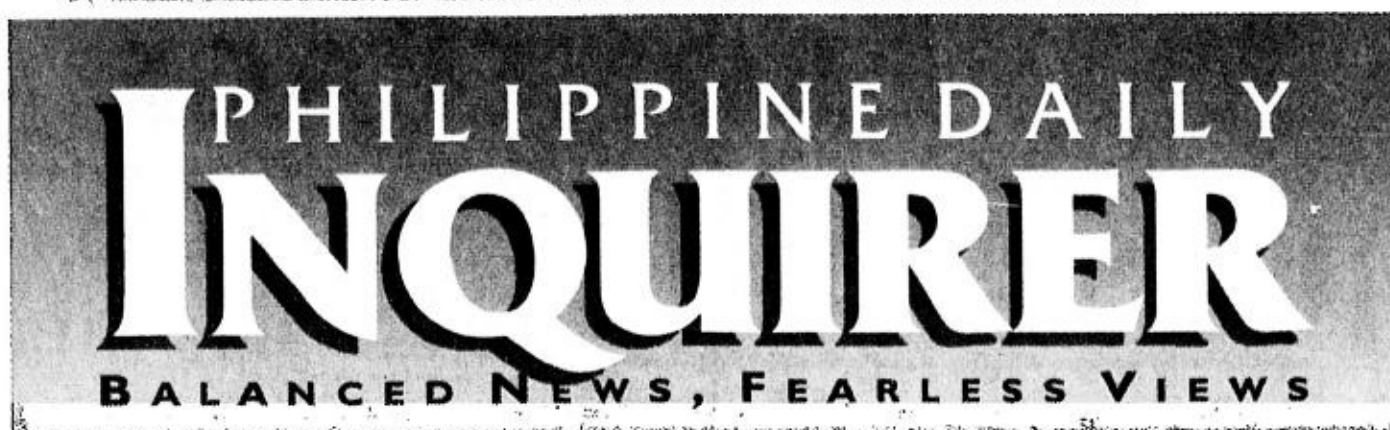
Story below, COL. 2

One dog missing, 2 found: Blame politics



WILL the real million-peso sniffer dog please raise his paw? Only one dog was missing. But two, each claimed to be the missing dog, were found. And each one was presented to the media at

ONE/A18



Only 3 left in race for new Ombudsman

By Michael Lim Ubac

ONLY three people are left vying for the top post at the Office of the Ombudsman. They are Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuffo and Social Security Commission Chair Bernardino Abes.

The Judicial and Bar Council recom-

ONLY/A4

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Thursday, October 10, 2002 ★ 52 pages / 4 sections / vol. 17 / no. 304 P15

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MY PRIMARY focus is governance.



CABINET members should not follow wherever I go.



MY POLITICAL fate I leave it up to Him.



"PLENTY" of sex is the headline-grabber.

95% reject talks with Reds – GMA

But gov't to continue 'back-channel' negotiations

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

THE GOVERNMENT should not resume peace talks with communist rebels if the people would have their way.

Ninety-five percent of Filipinos do not want the government to restart formal negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF), President Macapagal-Arroyo told members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) yesterday in Makati.

Ms Macapagal did not say where she got the figure although she maintained that her administration would continue to undertake "back-channel" negotiations with the NDF.

"The policy is that we are not at the table right now," she said. "But I have told the (government) peace panel that they must recognize that 95 percent of the people don't want to go back to the peace table."

The talks were suspended in June last year after the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), assassinated Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former Constabulary colonel accused by human rights groups of torture and summary executions. NPA assassins also killed Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan for his alleged "blood debts."

An opposition senator suggested that the government hold talks instead with the NPA regional or local leaders, who are fighting the military because of

95%/A18

Police have no basis to pin down Jordanian

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE National Police has no basis to pin down an overstaying Jordanian for terrorist acts, including the bomb attack in Zamboanga City.

Two police intelligence sources yesterday made this admission in reference to Mohammad Amin al Ghaffari, 36, whom the Bureau of Immigration has taken into custody and whom the military suspects of involvement in the Oct. 2 blast that killed a US soldier and two Filipino civilians.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, al Ghaffari said "media and intelligence reports" alleging his involvement in the bomb attack were "irresponsible, unfounded and without basis."

He said that he had not visited the

COPS/A17



THE MEDIA hound PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane at the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines forum to clarify his remarks that not all cops can be trusted.

ERIK ARAZAS

ROGUE COPS

Ebdane draws criticisms, applause

By Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet L. Javellana

EVEN as he was admired for his honesty, Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane also drew criticisms from administration lawmakers. But he won praises from opposition senators for his candid statement that not all policemen could be trusted.

Senators Edgardo Angara and Rodolfo Biazon, who belong to the minority bloc, said they would admire Ebdane more if he went a step further and rid the PNP of hoodlums in uniform.

"(He) must cleanse the police ranks ... There really are rogue policemen, aside from the fake ones," Angara said.

During the Bulong Pulungan forum on Tuesday, Ebdane advised the families of kidnap victims: "Don't trust just any policeman; look instead for somebody whom you can trust."

On an earlier occasion, he estimated there were about 5,000 policemen involved in crime. Anecdotal evidence also abounds that a significant number of policemen are engaged not only in kidnapping but also in drug trafficking, illegal gambling, highway robbery, murder and extortion.

Reacting to Ebdane's statement, Biazon said that the PNP chief should seek out, charge and jail these 5,000 scalawags.

"This latest mea culpa of Ebdane gives a chill along the spine of citizens for if

they cannot trust the police in times of crisis, whom do they run to?" the senator asked.

According to Biazon, the Armed Forces of the Philippines can also do its part by going after the kidnappers of two GMA 7 journalists in Sulu.

He said the continued denial of the AFP Southern Command regarding the involvement of at least three soldiers in the kidnapping would not help restore the people's trust and confidence in men in uniform.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said she appreciated the honesty and candor of the PNP chief but found his statement "alarming" and

EBDANE/A4

Bush vetoes \$30-M US military aid to RP

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE \$30 MILLION in military assistance approved by the US Congress for the Philippines is no longer forthcoming.

US President George W. Bush vetoed the allocation because of "budget deficit problems," President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted yesterday before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines. But she pointed out that the \$30 million was not part of the \$100-million military package that Bush

pledged during her visit to Washington last year.

Ms Macapagal took consolation in the fact that the Philippines received a much bigger military package from the Bush administration than in past US administrations.

She said that apart from the \$100-million pledge, the US government spent for the Balikatan 02-1 joint training exercise that ran from January to July. It will also allocate \$25 million in additional military assistance for the next ex-

ercise scheduled to begin in August 2003.

"It's not that the US has not complied with its commitments or pledges," the President said. "It's just that there was a windfall that could have been there (but it) was vetoed. But it's still a work in progress."

She said she still hoped that the \$30-million package would eventually materialize.

In August, the Associated Press quoted Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as

saying in Washington that the United States had pledged \$25 million in additional military help for the Philippines this year, "with an additional \$30 million possible."

Reyes was also quoted as saying that the money would be used to pay for teaching Filipino helicopter pilots to fly at night and for training two elite anti-terrorism units of about 90 members each and four light infantry battalions.

BUSH/A18

Gloria talks of politics, US relations, tax and sex

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Carlito Pablo

SHE spoke about RP-US relations, tax collection, good governance, and the 2004 elections—but she was certain that her declaration that she's having "plenty" of sex was what would make the headlines.

The scene was President Macapagal-Arroyo's annual luncheon yesterday with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap), which was attended by businessmen, diplomats, Speaker Jose de Venecia and other government officials including from the military and police.

As expected, Focap members asked her about her supposed plan to seek the vote as President in 2004, military assistance from the United States, the budget deficit and other policy issues.

Raisa Robles, a correspondent of the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post, asked about the death penalty, which

GLORIA/A18

Tesda hit for hijacking 'skills' funds

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES is faring better at a regional skills competition than at the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

Filipinos won three gold medals at the fourth Asean Skills Competition in Jakarta, which officially ends today. These are for computer-aided design, IT and cabinet making.

But the country's performance was only good for third place. The Philippines was once the best in the region's yearly skills competition that covers such trades as dressmaking, IT, cabinet-making, food and restaurant service, electronics, plumbing, welding, cooking and waitering.

What happened? The filching of funds for the Philippine delegation is the likely explanation.

The Philippine Skills Development Foundation Inc. (Philskills) is demanding the return of P3.7 million from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

TESDA/A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/10/02

Second FRONT PAGE

Senate passes bill on absentee voting

By Rocky Nazareno

THE SENATE last night passed the Absentee Voting Law on second reading, paving the way for the more than seven million Filipinos living and working overseas to vote for the first time in the 2004 presidential election.

With a vote of 14-1, the Senate approved the priority measure that had been certified as urgent by Malacañang.

It will be formally approved on third reading on Oct. 21.

The House failed to approve a counterpart bill last night but House leaders said they would be doing so on Tuesday.

Only administration Sen. Joker Arroyo voted against the new law, citing flaws that "could make the law an instrument for cheating."

"We achieved a milestone because we were able to deliver on a constitutional promise for overseas Filipinos," said opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, the bill's principal author.

Under Senate Bill 2104, all Filipinos abroad who are at least 18 years old on the day of the election would be allowed to vote for the candidates for President, Vice President, senators and party-list representatives.

They will also be allowed to cast their votes in referendums and plebiscites on national issues.

The new law will benefit the estimated three million overseas Filipino workers, more than two million permanent residents and 1.6 million undocumented Filipinos in foreign countries.

Overseas Filipinos (OFs) may register by mail or personally with the embassy or consular office in their places of residence.

They may then vote, also by mail or by personally casting their ballot at the nearest Philippine embassy or consular office.

The counting and canvassing of the votes will be done "on-site." An election official assigned in that foreign country is to send the summary of results to Manila for proper tabulation.

Impostor vote

Angara said there was much debate on the requirement of "physical presence" for voters who would be allowed to register by mail.

"The argument was that some impostor might be able to register because there is no physical presence," he said.

But Angara explained that the Constitutional Commission, in mandating that Congress should provide for "a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad," had deliberated on the issue and "left it to the discretion of the legislature whether to require physical presence or not."

He argued that it would be too burdensome and expensive for the overseas Filipinos to have to return to their hometowns just to register.

The opposition leader also noted that it was "the request of the OFs that the counting and canvassing of the votes be undertaken where they voted."

"This is their safeguard that the returns

will not be tampered with," he said.

Angara said the Senate and House proponents of the bill have agreed to set aside P1 billion in the 2004 national budget to facilitate the voting of foreign-based Filipinos in the 2004 elections.

He said the new law would allow even undocumented Filipinos to vote.

Angara said that, in the registration and casting of votes, "the Commission on Elections is not required to inquire into the status of the voter."

"In fact, the undocumented Filipino could even register and vote by mail," he said.

Arroyo, the lone opposition to the bill, said he was more worried about what the administration would be capable of doing with the new voting law.

"Malacañang is ominously quiet. It appoints the ambassadors, it appoints the officials," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda, a co-sponsor of the bill, said the passage of the absentee voting law was "a major breakthrough in efforts by Congress to allow overseas Filipinos to vote from their place of work."

"With \$8 billion contributed by OFs annually to boost the economy, they have the right to select the leaders of this country," Legarda said.

She noted that Filipinos abroad are "keenly aware of the political and economic development of the country so they have a stake in shaping the country's future."

"They are the missing middle-class vote in Philippine politics that can change the face of our democracy," Legarda said.

Sabah rape victim has dual nationality

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE 13-YEAR-OLD deportee from Malaysia who accused several Malaysian prison guards of rape has dual citizenship, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

"Angelica is both a Filipino and a Malaysian," said Perez, who disclosed that the rape victim's mother was a Filipino while her father was Chinese Malaysian.

This development would have a bearing on the legality of Angelica's deportation from Kota Kinabalu last month, the justice secretary said.

"It means that the deportation was not correct. She could then go back if she wants," he said.

But Perez is unwilling to allow Angelica to go back to Malaysia just yet.

"Maybe it's better if she stays here. It is possible that she will not get protection there because

she is accusing some Malaysian guards," he said.

"She can stay here because she is also a Filipino," he said.

Angelica is a Malaysian citizen on two counts, he said. Her father is a Malaysian and she was born in Sabah, Malaysia.

Malaysian law subscribes to the *jus soli* (right of the soil) rule of the common law that determines the citizenship of a child on the place of its birth.

The Philippines follows the *jus sanguinis* (right of blood) rule that bases the citizenship of a child on the citizenship of the parents.

On account of her mother's citizenship, Angelica "at the same time is a Filipino. So until the age of maturity, she (holds) dual citizenship," Perez explained.

Angelica's dual citizenship, however, would not affect the statutory rape charges to be filed.

"It will not affect the case at all. We are going to pursue it," he said.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS PASAY CITY

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (CA) for confirmation the ad interim appointments of the following officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines:

To the grade of General and as Chief of Staff - Benjamin P. Defensor, Jr.

To the grade of Brigadier General - Diosdado D. Tabamo, Romeo P. Tolentino, Glenn J. Razonza, Orlando A. Ambrolo and Godofredo D. Rabara

The public may submit any information, written reports or sworn complaints or oppositions in forty (40) copies on the above appointments to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824, 834-2706, 831-1566 and 834-2713.

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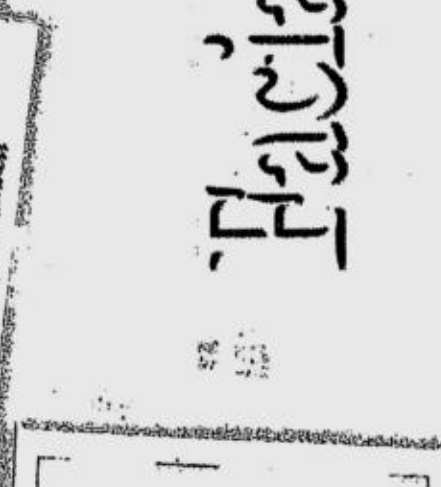
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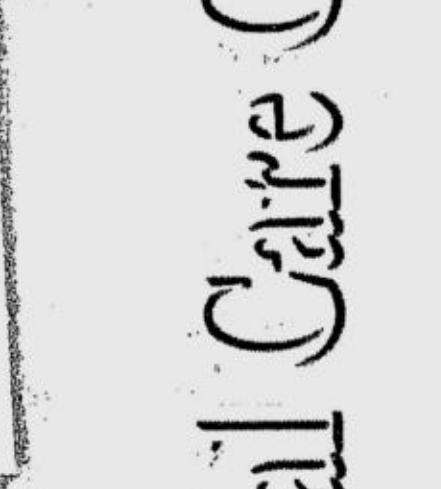
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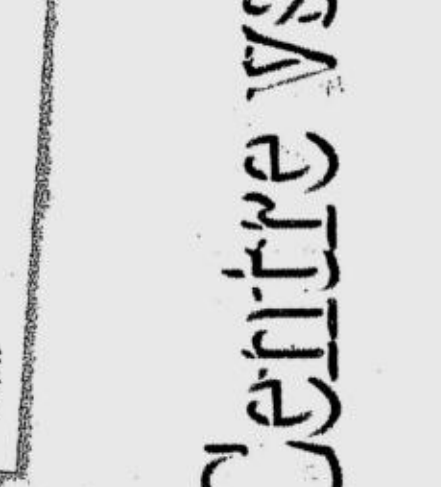
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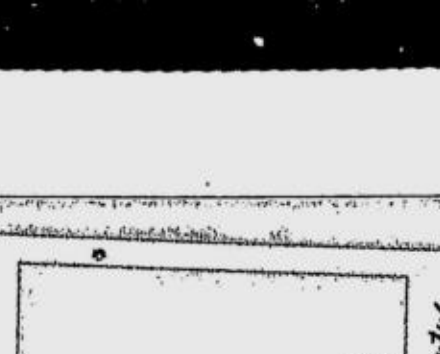
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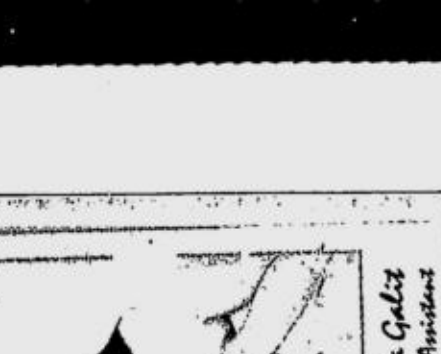
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MONDAY - FRIDAY (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 5 PM)

Only 3 left in race for new Ombudsman

From page A1

mended them yesterday to President Macapagal-Arroyo after they got the necessary number of votes to make it to the shortlist.

Nineteen others failed to make it to the shortlist, including Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac, Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, acting Ombudsman Margari to Gervacio and human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong.

Zuño welcomed the news with a smile. He told reporters at the Department of Justice that he was "very happy. I am thankful to the JBC, especially to my No. 1 supporter—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez."

Apprised of the news, an elated Marcelo likened his inclusion in the JBC shortlist to the situation encountered by Frodo Baggins in the blockbuster movie, "Lord of the Rings."

Marcelo, a movie buff, said in a telephone interview that Baggins

was at first reluctant to accept the formidable responsibility of keeping the ring, and subsequently destroying it in Mt. Doom. "Like Frodo, it's not easy to accept this responsibility (of being the Ombudsman). But if I am chosen by the President, I will accept the nomination," he said. "One can't evade responsibilities."

The 49-year-old Marcelo pointed out that most people "only see the power of the Ombudsman's Office (just like the power of the ring). They don't see the great responsibility imposed on the person."

Like the quest for the Holy Grail

Marcelo, who was appointed solicitor general by Ms Macapagal in February last year, wants to believe that public service is like King Arthur's "quest for the Holy Grail."

"To find the grail, one should be pure of heart," which, he said, was his edge over the other two nominees. "I came from the semi-



MARCELO: Pure of heart.

nary. I work on my own ... and not second guess on what the Palace would want me to do."

In a telephone interview, Abes, labor secretary during the term of the President's father Diosdado, said: "I would like to thank the JBC members for their kindness."

Abes believes that he, Marcelo and Zuño "have equal chances of being appointed."

"We're on the same footing. No



ABES: No one has an edge.

one has an edge over the others. The President will exercise judgment and decide in a way which I think will serve the best interest of the people," he said.

After voting, the JBC, which recommends replacements for vacancies in the judiciary, came up with a shortlist of candidates from which the President will pick someone who will fill the post vacated by Aniano Desierto on Aug. 4.



ZUÑO: Thanks to No. 1 supporter.

"We already signed the nominations. It will be transmitted to the Office of the President today," said Perez, the ex-officio member of the JBC.

Under the law, the President has 90 days to act on the JBC recommendation, said Perez. "I don't think the President will wait for 90 days anymore. I myself will urge her to appoint (the next Ombudsman) because of urgency."

Perez refused to reveal how seven of the eight JBC members cast their votes yesterday.

The representative of the academe, Alfredo Marigomen, retired on July 9 after completing his four-year term. "I can't reveal the voting," he said. "But the three received at least five votes."

To make it to the shortlist, an aspirant must obtain the "majority vote" or five votes of JBC members, said Perez.

Perez explained that JBC members voted based on the nominees' competence, track record and performance. The nominees were also graded, based on endorsements and the result of their interviews with JBC members.

Asked to comment on whether the Palace had lobbied for the inclusion of Marcelo and Abes, Perez said: "Being close to the Macapagal family is not a qualification for nomination. There was no pressure whatsoever from Malacañang."

Tesda hit for hijacking 'skills' funds

From page A1

(Tesda) meant for the Philippine delegation to Jakarta.

Tesda under Director General Dante Liban intercepted donations from Malacañang and private firms for the participation of 48 athletes and coaches in the Asean Skills Competition, according to Philskills.

Philskills president Dionisio Magpantay said Milagros Hernandez, Tesda deputy director general, received the P3.4 million while another director, Augusto Carpio, claimed the P300,000 from AMA Computer College last month.

But Hernandez said the P3.4 million she got from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. was the money given to Tesda for the National Skills Competition in Davao last year. It was released "very late" and used instead for the Asean event.

Tesda sponsored only 13 of the 22 Filipino athletes who flew to Jakarta for the 10-day competition. Magpantay said Tesda dropped the silver medalists in the national meet, who should have been included in the Philippine

delegation.

No uniforms

Funding for the trip of the other eight contestants, who were not given uniforms and accommodations while in Jakarta, came from Philskills, the athletes' families and local officials. "The kids looked so pitiful. But we had to bring them there because we made a commitment. The country would be shamed if we could not complete the delegation," Magpantay said.

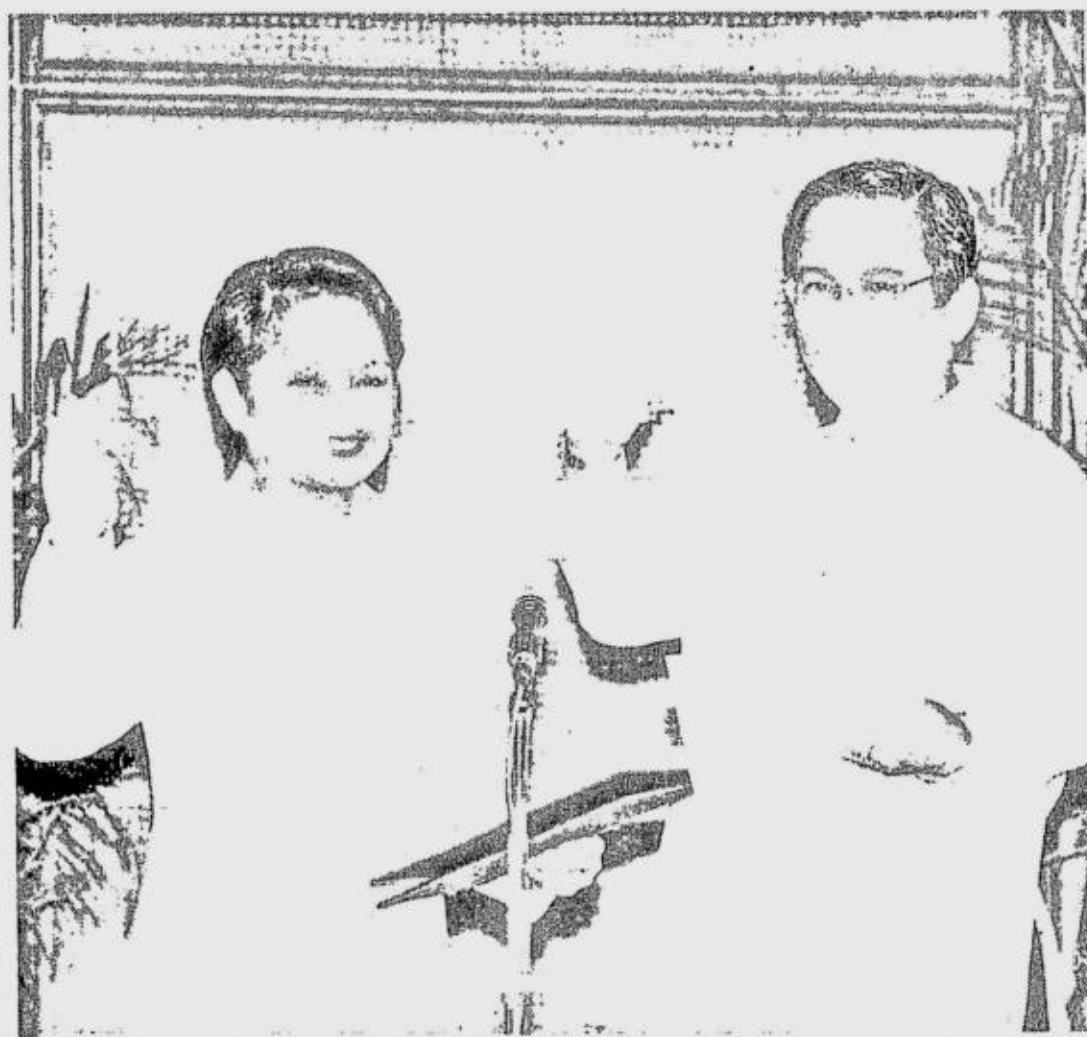
Philskills, representing 16 private sector groups working with Tesda nationwide, said it had spent around P2.5 million for the training and trip of the athletes.

The Philippines sent a 38-member contingent composed of four Tesda officials, 22 competitors and 12 experts, according to Hernandez. Philskills said there were 17 Tesda officials and staff.

In a Sept. 30 letter to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Philskills reported the "unethical and unprofessional attitude" of Tesda officials, who, Magpantay said, came into the picture after learning that Philskills had been able to raise funds for the athletes.

Magpantay said Liban had wanted Tesda and Philskills to sign a contract allowing Philskills to raise funds but mandating Tesda to appropriate it. "Why are they competing with the private sector? Liban wants control of the funds," he said.

But Hernandez said in a



DIRECTOR General of Tesda, Dante Liban, took his oath of office in July.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

phone interview that there was "an understanding" that if Philskills could not show the money by July, the agency would take control of the funds. "It is really a mandate of Tesda; it is enshrined in our law," she said. "We have always partnered with the private sector, but Tesda is

the official agency here."

Hernandez admitted that there was no written agreement and that the "understanding" was based merely on meetings. Magpantay said Philskills representatives were not allowed to attend the meetings.

In an endorsement letter to the President dated May 29,

former Tesda Director General Lucy Lazo said the Tesda "had assigned to Philskills the implementation of the Philippine participation" in the Asean Skills Competition. "The Philippine team would be sorely missed in the ASC if we are not able to raise funds through Philskills," Lazo said.

Ebdane draws criticisms ...

From page A1

"demoralizing."

Legarda said she did not expect that statement to come from the PNP chief himself. Besides, she said the involvement of policemen in crime was already "public knowledge."

"If (Ebdane says) we cannot trust the police, whom can we trust?" Legarda asked.

Senate President Franklin Drilon also voiced his misgivings, saying "the statement of the PNP chief is quite unfortunate and revealing."

Drilon told Senate reporters that it was Ebdane's responsibility to purge the PNP of scoundrels.

"We will hold him to his word, and we will call on him and make him account for what he has done and what he will do when the budget hearing comes," he added.

Pichay, PNP

At the House of Representatives, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said Ebdane should step down for demoralizing the entire police force.

"That's a stupid statement coming from the PNP chief," said Pichay, chair of the House defense committee. "If he really made that statement, he does not deserve to stay one more day as PNP chief."

Pichay said that instead of restoring the people's trust in the police, Ebdane alienated the whole organization and put every policeman under suspicion.

"The entire nation expects an

explanation to his statement. Otherwise the taxpayers would be merely wasting money on an organization that they cannot trust," he said.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil clarified that Ebdane had cautioned the public "not to trust just any policeman, but to look for somebody whom they can trust" when reporting a kidnapping case.

"What he meant was that we should entrust information (on a kidnapping case) to a person or an agency that has a capability to handle kidnapping cases, like the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer)," he said.

"Not all policemen are trained to handle such a very sensitive, operational matter on kidnapping-for-ransom cases," he added.

Reacting to Pichay's call for the PNP chief to step down, Bataoil said: "Everybody is entitled to his own opinion. As far as the PNP is concerned, we mean well for the good of the organization."

Ebdane has expressed confidence that he could still achieve his goal of neutralizing the remaining 15 kidnapping-for-ransom syndicates by year-end.

"That's still doable, especially if the criminals become remorseful and turn away from their illicit activities," he said in a talk with INQUIRER editors on Tuesday night.

Pacer, an elite PNP force, has so far busted six of the 21 kidnapping-for-ransom gangs this year. With a report from TJ Burgoon

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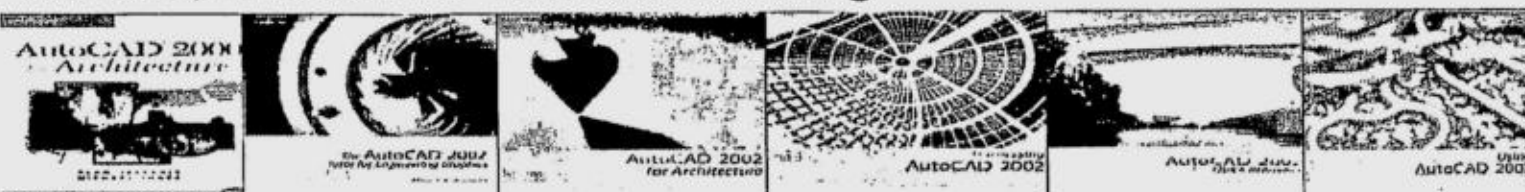
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Bunye, Abalos confirmed

THE CONGRESSIONAL Commission on Appointments yesterday confirmed the appointments of Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos and two Comelec commissioners, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuazon Jr.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, the CA chair, noted that with the confirmation of Abalos, Borra and Tuazon, the Comelec would now be able to "focus its undivided attention on the election modernization program."

"With only 20 months before the 2004 presidential election, there is so much to be done to put in place computerized balloting," Drilon said.

Borra, Tuazon and former Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo had been bypassed in previous CA hearings as the poll body was wracked by disagreements among the commissioners.

Malacañang decided not to re-appoint Benipayo after he was bypassed.

Opposition Senators Edgardo Angara and Teresa Aquino-Oreta said they hoped "the new consensual brand of leadership" at the Comelec would lead to an efficient poll body

that would be able to conduct fair and honest poll elections.

Angara said the new Comelec should now be able to "cleanse the electoral system and bring back our true democracy."

"If we don't verify the voters' list which is the mother of all cheating because it is padded and if we don't facilitate a faster count then we will be stuck in the same hole that we are in," he said.

Oreta, the chair of the CA committee on constitutional offices, said the poll modernization program had been the biggest casualty of the intramurals at the Comelec during Benipayo's watch.

She said this raised serious doubts on whether government could computerize balloting and counting systems in time for the next elections.

She noted that the endorsement of the political opposition "sends a strong message to Malacañang that Congress wants the Comelec to move forward from hereon and put the poll modernization on the fast track."

Rocky Nazareno

ABS-CBN pulls plug on Imee

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ILOCOS Norte Rep. Imee Marcos a victim of persecution?

Sources close to the congresswoman would like to think so, claiming that Marcos had been "banned" from being interviewed by ABS-CBN television network hosts for her criticisms of another establishment in the Lopez Group, the Manila Electric Co.

Last week, the daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos found herself being confronted by her own House colleagues when she openly agreed with the Supreme Court ruling on the extradition case against Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

The Marcos sources said the Lopez-owned television network group had since Monday cancelled

and banned Marcos' interviews with ABS-CBN, ANC and dzMM.

"Last Monday, the word was out that she should not be interviewed anymore," one source said, claiming that it was because of her criticisms against Meralco and its pricing policies.

This was confirmed by Marcos herself. "Yes, it's true they (the network) have stopped calling," she said.

Asked why this was so, she said "we're treading on sensitive toes."

But Luchi Cruz-Valdes, ABS-CBN's vice president for news, denied there was any such policy.

Valdes said that yesterday Marcos was interviewed by Weng Orejana, the ABS-CBN reporter in the House.

She said the network was also airing a story of Marcos denying the rumored political team-up of Fernando Poe Jr

and her brother Ferdinand "Bongbong" Jr in the 2004 elections.

Valdes said Marcos was also interviewed in last Saturday's "weekend news" and several times more, in which she gave her views on the issue of transferring jurisdiction over police forces to the mayors.

"We don't have that policy (to ban her). From time to time, we have a temporary moratorium (on commentaries) because we are sensitive to propaganda," Valdes said.

Marcos said that some House legislators supportive of Jimenez confronted her the other day in a hearing of the House ethics committee.

She said Representatives Jacinto Paras, Prospero Nograles and Prospero Pichay wanted her to apologize for saying that "lawmakers are lawbreakers" while discussing Jimenez's extradition case.

AFP wants P548M to defend Malampaya

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday asked the House appropriations committee for an additional P547.9 million for the defense and military budget. The funds would be used to protect the Malampaya natural gas project off Palawan which he said was "very vulnerable" to terrorist attack.

Testifying at a hearing on the P65-billion budget of the defense and military establishment, Reyes said Malampaya should be protected as it will be a major source of revenue for the government.

"Malampaya is very vulnerable to terrorist attacks and we should be prepared to protect it but we do not have the money," Reyes said.

He said the more than half-a-billion pesos needed next year by the Joint Task Force Malampaya to secure the project was not included in Malacañang's budget proposal for the Department of National Defense.

Oil field protector

The Armed Forces was assigned the job of protecting Malampaya by Presidential Proclamation 72 issued on July 10, 2001.

Reyes told the hearing that the internal security of the country continued to be under threat from communist insurgents, Moro secessionists and the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

He said the communist New People's Army extorted P29 million this year to finance its activities and promote its cause. It also destroyed P59 million worth of property, he said.

But these security concerns cannot be addressed if the government allots only five percent of the national budget to defense as it has for next year, Reyes said in an emotional presentation before the committee.

"If defense and security is a low priority, we don't get the security that we need," he said.

The defense department has been allotted P65 billion next year, accounting for 5.28 percent of the proposed P804.2 billion national budget. This is P239 million less than this year's budget.

Gains in nuke medicine cited

THERE have been significant strides and advances in the use and practice of nuclear medicine in the Philippines in the past decades marked by the establishment of nuclear medicine laboratories in 21 of the largest and most progressive hospitals in the country.

This was one of the major achievements in nuclear medicine cited by Dr. Jerry Obaldo, president of the Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine, as the organization led the nation in the worldwide celebration of Nuclear Medicine Week Oct. 6-12.

There are 19 nuclear medicine laboratories in Metro Manila and one each in Cebu and Davao manned by about 30 nuclear medicine physicians and over a hundred nuclear medicine technologists, Obaldo said.

Nuclear medicine is the medical specialty that deals with the use of minute amounts of radioactive materials for diagnosing and treating various diseases.

Imaging procedures, Obaldo explained, are performed with a radioactive material being given to the patient by injection, inhalation or ingestion.

Obaldo explained that nuclear medicine is fundamentally different from other imaging specialties such as X-ray, ultrasound, computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

The latter four specialties, Obaldo pointed out, produce excellent structural images of the body and body parts while nuclear medicine provides both images of the structure and function of the organs.



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ENERGY CHIEF'S WARNING

Closing coal plants to hike power bills

ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez has warned of a 50-centavo increase in electricity rates if the government were to shut down all the coal-fired power plants of the National Power Corporation as demanded by environmentalists.

Perez was testifying at a hearing yesterday of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources that is investigating reports of alleged health hazards posed by toxic emissions from these coal-fired power plants.

"If all the coal-fired power plants, particularly the Calaca and Masinloc plants, are shut down, then we will have to rely on the independent power producers. The purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges would surely go up," Perez said.

The Senate is investigating allegations that the Napocor's coal-fired plants—the 1,200-megawatt station in Sual, Pangasinan; the 440-megawatt plant in Mauban, Quezon; the 700-megawatt station in Pagbi-

lao, Quezon; the 700-megawatt station in Oyon, Zambales, and the 600-megawatt plant in Calaca, Batangas—have been emitting mercury and other chemicals that are harmful to the environment and to humans.

Perez denied that the government had ever said it had agreed to shut down the coal-fired power plants "because it was less expensive (to operate and maintain them)."

But he assured the committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Jaworski, that the government was trying to diversify the country's energy sources.

"Diversification is the name of the game. We agree to maintain the operations of the coal-fired power plants but not to add to them anymore," Perez said.

Also appearing in the hearing were campaigners for the Greenpeace environmental group who cautioned against the country being beset by acid rain—rain which contains unusually large amounts of harmful chemi-

cals as a result of the burning of substances like coal and oil—because of the continued operation of the five coal-fired plants.

Greenpeace's Red Constantino explained that the mercury that the plants are emitting could transform into gaseous substances that are released to the atmosphere and then descend back to earth in the form of acid rain.

"Ninety-five percent of mercury being emitted by these plants will go to the atmosphere," while the remaining five percent will remain on land as "heavy metals," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda asked Greenpeace, Napocor and the Bureau of Food and Aquatic Resources to conduct another round of tests to determine the exact volume of mercury that the plants have been emitting.

The three agencies had given conflicting reports on the exact amount of mercury released by the plants, she said. *Rocky Nazareno*

Enrile wants power franchises auctioned

PRESSING his crusade against the purchase power adjustment (PPA) and utility giant Meralco, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said the government must auction the supply of 2000 megawatts of power in provincial franchised areas instead of handing them over to the Lopez-controlled Meralco.

In a press statement, Enrile said this move would generate billions of pesos in revenues and reduce the government's gargantuan budget deficit by holding a public bidding for the additional franchise areas that Meralco is trying to consolidate into its franchise areas.

Auctioning utilities

Enrile said the auctioning of operating licenses and franchises for utilities like electric service, telecommunications service, water services, transportation are very lucrative, legal and transparent ways for the government to generate revenues.

Enrile said the Meralco that was turned over by the Aquino administration in 1986 to the Lopez family without due compensation was double its original size in service area.

A Batangas electric cooperative was also added into the Meralco

service area during the Aquino administration, Enrile said.

Many of the small private and electric cooperative franchises that were handed over to the Meralco are expiring and the Lopez group has been trying to consolidate them into the original Meralco franchise, Enrile said.

Bad systems loss

The former senator said the provincial franchise areas in Quezon, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan were added to the original Meralco franchise areas of Manila during the period that the electric distribution utility was owned by the government after it was sold by the Lopez to the government in 1973.

Enrile said the quality of service in these provincial areas have suffered also because the bad systems loss in these areas were covered up by Meralco by averaging them with the excellent systems loss in a highly compact and modern area like Metro Manila.

There was therefore no pressure on Meralco to improve their services in these provinces, Enrile said.

He pointed out that the provincial franchises with an estimated total demand of 2,000 MW can be divided into four 500 MW franchises areas.

RP must cut population growth to fight poverty—Popcom

THE PHILIPPINES, one of Southeast Asia's poorest countries, should slash its population growth rate to better fight poverty and problems like high child mortality, the head of the government's Commission on Population said yesterday.

Tomas Osias said couples should be allowed to choose from a wide variety of family planning options, including contraceptives,

and "nobody should dictate" to them.

The Philippines' population, estimated at about 80 million, is growing by a high rate—2.36 percent a year. Government campaigns to reduce the birth rate have been restrained by the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to contraceptives. The influential church only promotes natural planning family methods.

Ideally, the Philippines should be able to

bring down the growth rate to below 2 percent, as Thailand did, to ease poverty and related problems, Osias said.

High population growth and poverty compound social and economic problems and make it more difficult for the government to provide health services and education, Osias said.

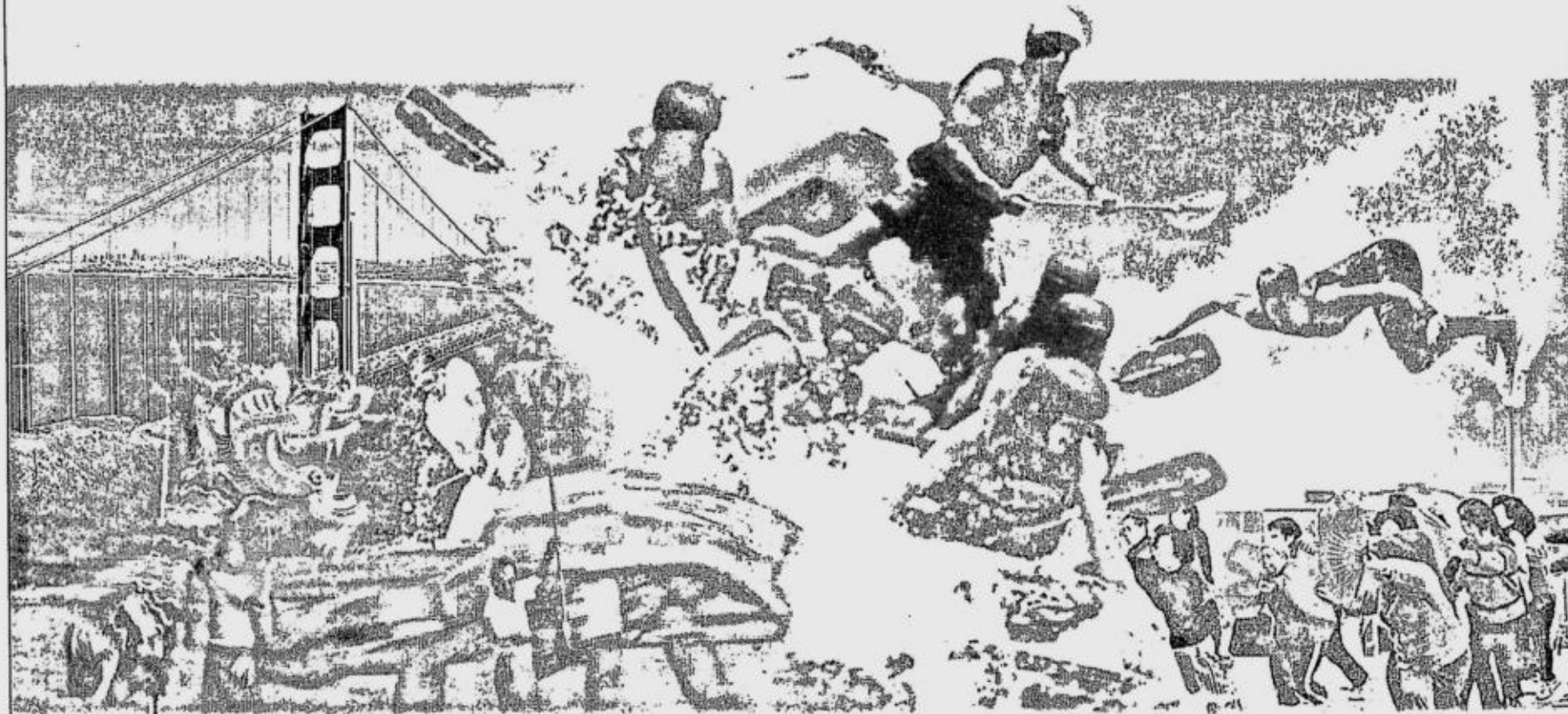
"These may be uncertain times for children to grow up in," he said.



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Joker vows to fight Palace over SPAV bill

By Rocky Nazareno

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday served notice that Malacañang and the government's top finance officials would have him to contend with if they insist that the Senate pass the proposed Special Purpose Asset Vehicle (SPAV) bill in its present form.

Arroyo said that the version of the bill, a key government revenue-raising measure, now being debated in the Senate would discriminate against the country's estimated three million borrowers.

"I cannot understand why Malacañang is pushing for it when it has been pressing us for more revenues with our budget deficit. (The SPAV) will result in revenue losses (for the government)," he said.

In a heated debate with opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña, Arroyo asserted that the current version of the SPAV bill would only worsen "the already tragic journey of our poor borrowers."

Tax exemptions

The bill seeks to give incentives like tax exemptions to asset management companies—or the SPAV of the bill's title—that would acquire the non-performing assets and loans that are clogging the books of banks and other financial institutions.

The government believes that the transfer and sale of these non-performing assets to asset management companies would free more funds for financing activities.

Arroyo said that while the SPAV bill would involve four parties—the government, the SPAV, banks and the borrowers—"the borrowers are the only ones left unrepresented."

"You have the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Bankers Association of the Philippines representing the bankers and the SPAVs. But who will represent the borrowers?" Arroyo asked.

He also castigated the "so-called cause-oriented groups who come to us at the drop of a hat to push for their causes" but who are nowhere to be found when someone is needed to speak for the borrowers.

Arroyo also took to task central bank governor Rafael Buenaventura and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho for not knowing just how much the government stood to lose in the form of tax exemptions in the SPAV transactions.

Deficiency claim

"(Camacho) never tells us the real amount. Malacañang should tell us," he thundered.

He also chided Buenaventura for insisting that the "deficiency claim" clause in the SPAV bill be allowed to remain despite its being discriminatory to the borrower.

"When a borrower's property is foreclosed, he would think that will be the end of it. But no, there is another tragedy in the form of the deficiency claim," Arroyo said.

A deficiency claim is the amount the original borrower would still have to pay after the asset is sold to the SPAV. It represents the difference between the foreclosed amount of the loan and the amount that the bank was able to sell the property for to the SPAV.

"That's why if a bank sells a P150,000 foreclosed property to the SPAV at a discounted price of, say, P100,000, the borrower would still have to pay the difference of P50,000," Arroyo said.

Just as Osmeña was about to answer Arroyo, fellow opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel beat him to the podium, asking to be recognized to put on record a speech he had wanted to deliver yesterday, the anniversary of the Local Governments Code.

Former AFP chief is PEA acting boss

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed retired Gen. Diomedio Villanueva as a director and acting general manager of the scandal-plagued Public Estates Authority.

Villanueva, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, will take over the board seat vacated by Joemari Gerochi, who resigned in the wake of the controversy arising from the alleged overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

PEA general manager Benjamin Cariño and agency chair Ernest Villalareal and the entire PEA board have gone on indefinite leave pending investigation of the alleged scam.

Among those who went on leave was PEA director Sulicio Tagud Jr., who charged that PEA bloated the cost of the road project by P600 million.

The case is under investigation by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Tagud and members of civil society groups have filed plunder charges against PEA officials and Jesusito Legaspi, owner of the construction firm that built the road.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Villanueva will assume the post of director and acting general manager effective Oct. 15.

Earlier Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong begged off as acting chair and general manager of PEA due to conflict of interest.

Ambeth to lecture on rare books, manuscripts

INQUIRER columnist Ambeth R. Ocampo, who chairs the National Historical Institute, will deliver a lecture on Saturday at the National Museum on artifacts, rare books and manuscripts as well as historical sites in the

NHI collection.

In little vignettes, Ocampo will relate how the collections were accumulated and preserved as well as how they can benefit stu-

dents, researchers and the general public.

The lecture will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall of the Museum of the Filipino People, Rizal Park.

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Tunnels found under Death Row

By Christian V. Esguerra

PRISON officials have discovered tunnels right under the compound housing death convicts at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa City.

The tunnels, measuring 2 feet by 2 feet, were found under the area between two chapels at the maximum security compound, said Ricardo Macala, Bureau of Corrections director.

Macala said the tunnels are very near a dormitory housing 317 inmates, 99 of them with death sentences affirmed by the Supreme Court. An inmate tipped officials of the tunnels two months ago, he said.

"Whoever dug the tunnels wanted to connect them to the drainage system to enable prisoners to escape," he said.

In 1980, a network of tunnels allowed 20 prisoners to escape, Macala said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Thursday, October 10, 2002
27th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Gal 3:1-5
Gospel: Lk 11:5-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to his house in the middle of the night and says: 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine who is traveling has just arrived and I have nothing to offer him.' Maybe your friend will answer from inside: 'Don't bother me now; the door is locked and my children and I are in bed, so I can't get up and give you anything.' But I tell you, even though he will not get up and attend to you because you are a friend, yet he will get up because you are a bother to him, and he will give you all you need."

And so I say to you, Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to him who knocks the door will be opened.

If your child asks for a fish, will you give a snake instead? And if your child asks for an egg, will you give a scorpion? Even you evil people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more then will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those who ask Him!"

Commentary
The very same thing Jesus taught his disciples in teaching them how to pray, he now teaches through this parable. God is more than a friend (philos in Greek, which is repeated four times in the parable), whom we can trust will not fail us. And even God is more than a father or mother, who has in mind above all the well-being of one's children. If God is so, how can we not be trusting of God when we pray? To pray, therefore, is to be in touch with a holy spirit in us, that disposes us to God's surprises. After all, our spirit, open to the very Spirit of God moving in our lives and the lives of people and of the entire creation, is what makes us able to address God as Abba/Imma and Jesus as Lord/Master. It is that spirit which enables us to confidently ask for what we need and go beyond what we experience in life: be it acceptance or rejection, abundance or want, good or evil.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cm1.net; Websites: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



POLITICAL LAW (ELECTORAL LAW)—Residence and domicile are synonymous terms.—In *Romualdez v. RTC*, Br. 7, Tacloban City, the Supreme Court held that "domicile" and "residence" are synonymous. The term "residence," as used in election law, imports not only an intention to reside in a fixed place but also personal presence in that place, coupled with conduct indicative of such intention. "Domicile" denotes a fixed permanent residence to which when absent for business or pleasure, or for like reasons, one intends to return. In that case, petitioner established his residence during the early 1980's in Barangay Malibog, Tolosa, Leyte. It was held that the sudden departure from the country of petitioner, because of the EDSA People's Power Revolution of 1986, to go into self-exile in the United States until favorable conditions had been established, was not voluntary so as to constitute an abandonment of residence. The Court explained that in order to acquire a new domicile by choice, there must concur (1) residence or bodily presence in the new locality, (2) an intention to remain there, and (3) an intention to abandon the old domicile. There must be animus manendi coupled with animus non revertendi. The purpose to remain in or at the domicile of choice must be for an indefinite period of time; the change of residence must be voluntary; and the residence at the place chosen for the new domicile must be actual. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Mendoza, Papanayan, Jr. v. Commission on Elections, G. R. No. 147909, April 16, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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Lip service

POLITICAL parties in the Philippines are notorious for coming alive only during the election campaign season. At other times, the parties are so invisible that no one knows where their headquarters are.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is changing this situation. The other day, she breathed life into the skeletal remains of the Liberal Party by inducting its new set of national officials.

EDITORIAL The LP was one of the two major parties that dominated Philippine politics in the post-war years, until political parties were dismantled by President Ferdinand Marcos' martial law regime. Since then, both the LP and the Nacionalista Party have never regained their dominance and have remained pathetic shells of their old structures. Even though they have won a few seats in Congress, they are really nothing more than lamentable relics.

Ms Macapagal is trying to build a broader coalition of parties that emerged after the restoration of democracy in 1986. One of its components is the LP.

In engaging in so much political activity so early, the President has broken the rule that political campaigns start just a few months before elections. By starting to build political coalitions, she has shown how obsessed she is with getting reelected. She has politicized the atmosphere very early, often at the expense of giving undivided focus to statecraft.

With this politicization, the distinction between politicking and governance has become blurred. And this has invited accusations from the opposition that presidential decisions are driven by calculations of political gain rather than by national interests.

By itself, the LP is not exactly a strong pillar upon which to build a coalition of parties. It has a single representative in the Senate, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, and in the House it controls only 21 out of a total of 214 seats. But then, President Macapagal's coalition now embraces the Lakas-NUCD, which holds the most seats (79), while her own party, Kampi, holds one seat.

Last May, the President took control of Lakas-NUCD by elbowing out Speaker Jose de Venecia, who ceded the party chairmanship to her. In the process of building a coalition, however, she has been using unstable foundations. She has lost important former allies in the People Power II coalition, among them Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. and former Education Secretary Raul Roco. To fill the gap, she has recruited former political opponents, like then Sen. Blas Ople and Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, both key supporters of the Estrada regime. This mixture of old allies, who were in the movement to oust Estrada, and Estrada men is a recipe for internal dissension.

The President's approach to coalition building is not at all based on any ideological foundation. It is based on political pragmatism. This being the case, she contradicts and pays lip service to her call to LP members and her new-found political allies to put an end to "politics of personality and patronage."

The President is the first violator of her declared intentions. The revival of the Liberal Party and the revitalization of Kampi speak volumes about the politics of personality, if not of perpetuating political dynasties.

She reminded everyone that her father, Diosdado Macapagal, won the presidency leading the Liberal Party ticket. But when she ran for vice president in the 1998 election, she used Kampi, a minuscule party, as her political vehicle. It was De Venecia's Lakas which provided her a political machinery.

The emptiness of her call to end the politics of personality is best underlined by the reorganization of Kampi. In the reorganization, inbreeding was the dominant note. She named Herman Montenegro, father-in-law of her son Mikey Arroyo, party treasurer and chief fund raiser. While she is chair of Lakas, she does not trust it enough, and so, she has a fall-back position in a reinvigorated LP and her own Kampi.

When she builds flimsy coalitions, the President ought to resist the temptation to link it to some high-sounding objectives such as ending patronage and personality-driven politics. To many she epitomizes all the vices of traditional politics.



Do you remember these cops?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



To illustrate: Suppose you catch squatters erecting their shanties on your lot and call the police for help. You want the police to stop them from stealing your property and to order the squatters to remove their shanties and leave.

But the police won't do that. The law enforcers will behave like they are lawyering for the squatters. We can't just throw them out, we may be accused of human rights violations, they will say. We have to have a court order. You have to pay the squatters disturbance fees. Where is your land title? Then they blame the stupid Lina Law (yes, they also call it "stupid") for tying their hands.

They forget that the squatters were caught in the act of committing a crime and therefore a court order isn't needed to stop them, they have no building permits and therefore their shanties can be demolished summarily, they have no titles to the land either, and why should they be paid for violating the law?

The policemen of old would have stopped the squatters right there and hauled them off to jail. The present-day policemen will hem and haw and find excuses not to do anything. They will pass the buck to the courts which can take many years to decide a case, which is tantamount to giving the property to the squatters gratis.

That's the less dangerous part. What about crimes of violence like homicide, bank holdups, kidnappings. Why can't they be solved quickly?

Colonel Lazaro, formerly of the MPD homicide

division and the defunct Detective Bureau, has the answer: Lack of concentration. For example, in the case of the killing of a policeman, the whole force is told to drop everything and hunt down the killer. The cop killing gets the utmost priority because "it is an assault on authority." That was why cop-killers didn't live long in the old days. Often, they were buried ahead of their victims.

In the investigation of crimes, Lazaro recommended the revival of the Detective Bureau. In the old days, members of this bureau were the elite of the police force. They all rose from the ranks. You have to be an outstanding performer in the other departments before you could be promoted to the Detective Bureau. Detectives, who were in plainclothes, never in uniform, also got slightly higher pay.

Lazaro also recommended the revival of the foot patrol. In the old days, members of the foot patrol really used their feet. They really walked their beats. They were the face of police authority, a friend of law-abiding citizens and nemesis of the lawbreakers. Often, their mere presence prevented crimes from being committed.

Today, police ride in patrol cars and they can't get through the traffic, even with their sirens and blinkers, to respond to an emergency. Worse, policemen are now almost invisible. You can rarely see them, except the traffic enforcers, former metro aides, who can't enforce traffic rules because they don't know them in the first place.

Besides the fact that policemen are nearly invisible because many of them are escorting funerals and weddings and acting as bodyguards for government officials, former Mayor Lim has an additional explanation. After roll call, he said, uniformed policemen change into plainclothes and disappear.

(Tomorrow: Gen. Rey Velasco's plans to improve the police force in the National Capital Region.)

Still, reading

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



THERE'S hope for us yet. I got a lot of letters reacting to my column on reading last week from readers who profess variously to love reading, to have been inspired to read again, to have mounted small campaigns to get kin and friends to discover reading's infinite pleasures.

Several lamented the fact that books in this country are fairly expensive. I agree. They are cheap if you earn dollars—not so if you earn pesos. Pulp fiction costs close to P500, and the more serious ones P700 or P800. Non-fiction, particularly where the books are new, is even costlier. But you can still buy good non-fiction books at relatively modest prices from the universities (Ateneo and UP have excellent selections). And happily, there are used-books stores like Books For Less along Rocas Street, though you have to go there regularly to get a crack at the real bargains. The better titles disappear fast.

Still and all, if you compare the prices of books to other things, like the prices of food and drinks, you realize P500 doesn't get you very far on a night out, particularly one fortified with music (though we are lucky to have cheap entertainment, in more ways than one, this country teeming with musicians, as foreigners keep pointing out) and books are still the better deal, also in more ways than one. Certainly, they are cheaper than a couple of non-pirated CDs, a meal for two in any place in Morato, the car and stereo accessories you surround yourself with. It's all a matter of priority. Books will always look expensive when considered a miscellaneous expenditure.

Quite incidentally, they still make the best gifts.

I've always thought we won't do so badly as a country if we could just bring the prices of two things down: rice and books. That is the only true indicator of progress, the rest is just a lot of petty consumerism. Who cares about cheap washing machines? Rice other Asian countries have been able to sell for a song. Look at the prices of food in Thailand, and weep. What folly our refusal to make food security our first priority, relying instead on the

presumed virtues of importation. But that's another story. Keeping the prices of books down the Western countries have been able to do. Relative to income, books come cheap.

Here, rice and books are still within reach, but both are slipping away. But like I said, I am glad for the letters that show some Filipinos are determined to offer stout resistance to the barbarians at the gates. Some Filipinos are willing to defend the oases of light in the growing darkness.

I got one very curious letter, however, from one reader asking me to comment on something Arthur Schopenhauer said about reading that has deeply disturbed her. It's this:

"Reading is nothing more than a substitute for thought of one's own. It means putting the mind into leading strings. The multitude of books serves only to show how many false paths there are and how widely astray a man may wander if he follows any of them. But he who is guided by his genius, he who thinks for himself, who thinks spontaneously and exactly, possesses the only compass by which he can steer aright."

"A man should only read when his thoughts stagnate at their source. On the other hand, to take up a book for the purpose of scaring away one's original thoughts is to sin against the Holy Spirit. It is like running away from nature to look at a museum of dried plants or gaze at a landscape in copper-plate."

Well, if reading books should teach us anything, it is never to stand in awe of philosophers (and columnists). It is to be able to say when faced with something like this: "That's a lot of nonsense."

Readers of the world, unite. You have nothing to lose but your ignorance. At the very least, even if it were true, even if all books did lead you every which way, you might as well be led every which way by writers of books than by anchors of television, including those of CNN. The easy seduction doesn't come from books, it comes from electronic media. Take it from "Star Wars": Jedi tricks work only on those with weak minds. Who are those who do not read in the first place, and swear only by George Lucas.

Even from a utilitarian viewpoint, from reading books to gain information or insight, you can't lose from it. Rather than be led astray by books, you get to choose the right path (or your own path; there is no right path for everyone) by comparing one set of ideas to another, including your own. Somebody else, whom I do not now recall, said books were still the best way two people talked to each other. I agree completely. Books are a conversation between two people, the writer and reader, and the most civilized way to go about it. I myself always put my case strongly when I write, but I do not expect readers to buy it. I expect them to argue against it, to help me to refine, or discard, it. Books remain the most interactive thing there is. More interactive than any interactive program on the PC.

But what Schopenhauer seems never to have discovered is the sheer joy of reading, the reading for pleasure and not just for vulgar gain. That is what you read poetry for, for the magic of it. For the sound of the words as much for what it says. Beyond poetry (or extending it), there is preciousness of the witty turn of phrase, the capturing of a complex thought or feeling, the being thrust into vast and unexplored world of the imagination. This much I can say: there is nothing in Peter Jackson's cinematic version of "Lord of the Rings," breathtaking as it is, that can compare with J.R.R. Tolkien's original rendering of it. The panorama conjured by our own minds is always the more colorful and sweeping.

But don't take my word for it. Find out for yourselves. Read.

John Paul the Great

POLITICAL
TIDBITSBelinda
Oliveras-Cunanan

That quip is also a succinct commentary: Escriva, who had a doctorate in civil law, apart from being a priest, is a saint for our times.

Pope John Paul II played second fiddle to Opus Dei's Bishop Echevarria at the thanksgiving ceremony by showing up for his audience only close to noontime. The Pope's open car drove up straight to the altar where he delivered his remarks and thanked the devotees of St. Josemaria for their love for the Church and exhorted them to continue living according to his ideals. Afterwards John Paul II was driven around the Square and he reached out to the throng with his blessings and kissing all the babies and children raised up to him. He seemed much stronger than Monday. He spoke without any slur and he didn't seem to get tired.

There is something about this stooped man with the shaking hands and affable smile, who is now being called John Paul the Great, that's hard to explain. When he came out for the first time during the canonization rites, few eyes were dry. Even grown men shed tears without realizing it. As one guy put it, "I guess he's the closest thing to seeing God."

During those two days whenever his car approached, many would shriek excitedly, pouring out their love to him. The Spanish-speaking youth, who numbered several thousands, came up with a chant that was so catchy and accompanied with a jump or a lift of their bodies: "Juan Pablo Segundo, te quiere todo el mundo (John Paul II, the whole world loves you)."

The finale number of last Monday's audience

with the Pope, which proved to be a major act, was when the Patriarch of the Rumanian Orthodox Church, magnificent in his white robes, walked up to John Paul, accompanied by his bishops. The Pope stood up and the two patriarchs embraced each other warmly and exchanged speeches. The crowd roared its approval, fully aware of St. Josemaria's teaching about the universality of the Church. Above them the saint smiled down from the Basilica's façade.

At a dinner tendered by Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier for visiting Filipinos, Rome-based Filipino Cardinal Sanchez told the guests that among the things that impressed him was when the multitude simultaneously dropped to their knees on the ground for Sunday's and Monday's ceremonies during the consecration of the Eucharist. Equally impressive to many was the crowd management and organization of the two ceremonies, with the sections well-separated and the aisles kept free for movement. The Church authorities managed to solve the near chaos that marred the giving of communion during the canonization of Padre Pio last July, which took over an hour. This time dozens of chalice-bearing priests spread out all over the square and its environs, accompanied by male volunteers who were holding up white umbrellas for easy visibility. Security last Sunday was very tight. Bags had to be cleared through X-ray, just like in airports.

What was also impressive was the participation of about a thousand young men and women from all over the world who served as volunteers. They could be easily identified by their badges, just like in the Jubilee Year 2000 celebrations. They helped pilgrims find their way around Rome by manning information desks at the airports and train stations and other strategic points, and helped the mammoth crowd at St. Peter's Square. Looking at the youth volunteers brimming with enthusiasm, one could not be pessimistic about the future of the Church in spite of what its critics are saying.

Schools and revolutions

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



If you wish to support public school teachers instead, you can take part in the "Mentoring the Mentors" project. A donation of P100,000 will underwrite the participation of 20 teachers in a five-day on-site training. Covered, too, is the transportation and lodging costs of the facilitation team. "This program's target clientele," says the foundation's primer, "are Teacher Education Institutions (TEI) that are involved in educating future teachers and in-service teachers." It employs "both inspirational and practical activities that will engage the whole person of the teachers such as team-building exercises and networking exchanges."

The "Mentoring the Mentors" program was conceptualized and developed jointly by the Marie Eugenie Foundation through Chinit Delgado Rufino and the UP College of Education through Dr. Celia Adriano and Dr. Evelyn Mijillano.

Taking part in the "Education Revolution," though, does not stop at issuing a check. Though if you are willing to contribute resources but do not have the time to get personally involved in the affairs of a particular school, I'm sure the foundation would be more than willing to put your money to good use.

Pursuing the goal of community involvement in the education of the next generation of leaders, the foundation urges civil society, including community groups and civic organizations, to "start by addressing the basic needs of the elementary public school system. There must be an elementary public school in our immediate neighborhood. Let us visit the school,

meet with the principal and the teachers, find out their needs, talk with the parent-teacher community association and other community leaders, plan ways of helping the school."

FUELED in the first place by the phenomenon of People Power in 1986, the foundation urges the public to "use People Power to move local officials to pay attention to the school. Let us get local residents and business to support a school feeding program, or to donate additional textbooks and school supplies, or to boost the shelves in the school library."

"If local help is not available, let us write our governor, our congressman and our senators. They are our servants, and our children's. In short, let us, caring Filipinos, adopt a public elementary school."

Indeed, we ignore the crisis in our educational system at the risk of allowing our country to slide further down the chute of failure and ignominy. We already know how our neighboring countries, which used to send their best and brightest to Philippine universities for training, have now outstripped even our private and national state institutions in student performance and quality of faculty. And as our graduates go, so does our bureaucracy, our officialdom, our managerial class, our pool of employable adults. And where in other countries a high school graduate is equipped with enough skills to earn a living and raise a family, in the Philippines, a high school degree barely equips a young person with basic literacy and numeracy.

"Education is a slow process, but we must double our efforts so that the nation will feel the change soonest," says the foundation. "For the sake of our children, we must fast track nothing less than a revolution in education. For this kind of revolution, we need People Power. But we need not march to EDSA. Let us march instead to our nearest public school."

For more information, contact the Foundation for Worldwide People Power Inc. at 633-2185 and 633-5981, e-mail fwwpp@glinesnx.com.ph

A young man's journey

HUMAN
FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



people who knew the Lindhs and their lifestyle were quick to defend them.

John's mother Marilyn knew her son was into Islamic studies. She was not into it herself, being more attuned to Native American rites. But the Lindhs were quite pleased with their son's fervor. Better than drugs. Marilyn would even drop John off at a mosque where he would pray. Did she think he'd get over it?

She did tell her son something: "I don't think you've really converted to Islam as much as you've found it within yourself; you sort of found your inner Muslim." How many mothers have said something as profound as that to a searching son or daughter?

John's father Frank said: "When kids get a certain age, you let them go. You wish them well, and you help them, and you support, and you never stop loving them, but you let them explore the world and find themselves." Great words.

Music and the Internet provided the teenager a window to the spiritual world. Scenes of countless devotees bowing to God from the movie "Malcolm X" moved John. (Breath-taking shot.) Cyberspace gave John a smorgasbord of religions. He searched online for rare books on Islam, the Palestinian cause, even the Freemasons.

Even before he moved on to Yemen to study, John was already deep into Islamic pursuits. One thing led to another. This next phase was even more serious and dramatic than the previous one. John was out there, in a foreign land, among strange people, but at home. Conventional Muslims were amazed by his fervor.

He did come home to the United States for a

time, but by then he was a changed man, inside and out. He was wearing Arab clothes, he had memorized two-thirds of the Koran in Arabic.

John left again, went to Pakistan and then Afghanistan. He did e-mail his mother, even asking permission from his father to move on to the mountains. Frank did not know where those mountains were. Marilyn tried to locate her son in Pakistan.

John was captured in December 2001 along with many Taliban fighters who had trained with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. The Lindhs were devastated when they learned about the circumstances surrounding John's arrest.

The Time story is riveting. But this is told from the point of view of those who knew John well while he was growing up, and by those whom he later met as a serious Muslim seeker. They make a profile of him. But there is nothing from John himself after his arrest. What was his inner transformation like? Did he find the truth he was seeking? Why Islam and not the brand of Christianity he grew up in? Why jihad?

Now clean-shaven, John undergoes debriefing regularly, as part of intelligence gathering on terror networks. He remains a devout Muslim.

In the same Time issue is a three-page feature on 11th century Muslim poet-mystic Rumi, some kind of St. John of the Cross of his milieu, and whose poetry is now a post-9/11 bestseller in the United States. (I bought my "The Essential Rumi" much earlier, ha, but Tagore's "Gitanjali" is still my all-time prayer book.)

For John Walker Lindh in these terrifying days, a line from Rumi: "The judge then asked the youngest brother, 'What if a man cannot be made to say anything? How do you learn his hidden nature?' 'I sit in front of him in silence, and set up a ladder made of patience, and if in his presence a language from beyond joy and beyond grief begins to pour from my chest, I know that his soul is as deep and bright as the star Canopus rising over Yemen.'"

Someday, I hope John Walker Lindh speaks about what he found in his heart.

Nice memories

I HAVE nothing but good memories of the natural disasters I have experienced since I was six in our community in Dagupan City. It may sound paradoxical, but the truth is, I can't seem to remember how bad those disasters were or how desperate the times were. Of course, I can recall seeing the ground cracking open, volcanic ashes painting the sky and covering my hair gray, and flood waters rising, but I can't remember how I felt during those punishing days. I can't recall how scared I was.

Was I ever afraid?

Maybe I was. Maybe I

was not. Maybe I was

too young to care.

Maybe I couldn't fully

comprehend what

was going on around

me. Maybe it was not

devastating or tragic

enough to stick in my head.

But while I may not remember my feelings, I know I have lived through numerous disasters. I have seen them and experienced them. But I guess I saw something else in those disasters, something good that my mind preserved it in my memory. These are things that I think are far more memorable than the horrors of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, typhoons and floods.

I saw goodness in our community, from families, individuals, adults, the young, the unfortunate and the fortunate. I saw survivors. I saw their faith. I saw the things they did for each other. I saw the things we still can do.

When the earthquake destroyed hundreds of houses, schools, buildings, roads, bridges, and affected thousands of lives in our community in 1990, the people rebuilt what was lost from what was left of them. Barely a year later, when Mt. Pinatubo erupted and left thick toxic ashes that again destroyed property and affected even more lives in our place, the people scraped the ashes off each other's rooftops so that the roofs would not collapse from the weight. And when typhoons brought massive floods, the people kept a close watch on the water level despite being drenched in the heavy downpour.

The people coped with the trying times and overcame one adversity after the other. They found ways to survive while still caring, helping and reaching out to each other. They rescued people from the ruins of the earthquake. They gave medicine to those who caught respiratory diseases from the poisons of the eruption. They made *balsa* for transport. They rebuilt houses and replanted trees that had been uprooted. They entrusted their properties and even their own lives to each other. They shared food, water, candles, stories, hopes and hopes.

While disasters wrecked almost everything, they made people stronger in their faith. Families stayed together, protected each other and comforted each other. They prayed together even in the middle of aftershocks and threats of flash floods. The people became one. They proved equal to every challenge posed by natural disasters.

Earthquakes couldn't shake their faith. Ashes couldn't bury their hope. Floods couldn't drown their humanity.

Since I left our place three years ago, our community has been struck by more natural disasters. But I am certain the people survived them all. And that certainty has led me to keep all those good memories alive and to believe that remembering only the good is best because I can recall the goodness of people.

Peter Vincent V. Quetulio, 18, is a BA Journalism student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Working together

Erwin Cruz

FILIPINOS must be the most skillful drivers in the world. For starters, we have this uncanny ability of sharply swerving from one lane to another without hitting a nearby motorist, who is by then cursing us to high heavens, although he did exactly the same thing a few minutes earlier. Call it *abilidad*, call it macho or call it whatever you want, but these acts of discourtesy and lack of discipline are one of the reasons traffic here is as messy as Congress and common as the cold. And yet we're only scratching the surface of this gargantuan problem.

Take the case of buses on Edsa. No matter how big the "No Loading/Unloading" signs are, you can bet your entire lifetime of savings and the credit card you've never used that bus drivers simply ignore them. They stop anywhere they want and leave only one lane open of a three-lane road that looks like a test site for bombs, with all the potholes in it. You can honk your horn all you want, but chances are that they will simply go about their way or continue texting a fellow motorist to ask why sexy actress Assunta De Rossi has fallen in love with a politician from Negros Occidental.

There are other reasons for the heavy traffic. One is the volume of vehicles using the major thoroughfares everyday. While their number steadily increases, the same thing cannot be said about the roads being built. The result? Congestion on the roads, especially during rush hours.

The problem becomes much worse when the Yuletide season comes and loved ones from abroad come to visit. All of a sudden, both the North and South "Expressways" morph into the biggest parking lot you have ever imagined. Don't be surprised if you discover that the ratio between the minutes you wait for the vehicle in front of you to move and the inches your car advances is two to one. You didn't actually run barefoot on the Great Wall of China from end to end, but it feels that way when you wake up the next morning on account of all that traffic.

It is not as if no attempts are being made to ease the congestion. One such attempt is the odd-even scheme, which bars private vehicles from the streets between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. depending on the last digit of their plate numbers. But there are many who break this regulation as often as Michael Jackson grabs his crotch on MTV. And we understand that the scheme might be scrapped soon since studies have shown that it has caused only minimal improvement in the traffic situation or none at all.

But despite the despair we hear around us, there may be hope yet that this problem will be licked. Naysayers say this would require nothing short of a miracle, but as a nation imbued with a lot of faith, didn't we pull a miracle, a bloodless revolution known as people power?

I am not saying that people should go out in the streets with their rosary beads or chant what Matthew or John said in verses so and so. All I am saying is that we are capable of accomplishing great things if we work together toward one single goal, one great endeavor, solving the traffic crisis included.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we began this traffic management enterprise by applying some good old road courtesy and discipline? It will surely make us feel better afterwards. Little things like this can go a long way.

Call me a hopeless optimist, but I still look forward to the day when I will hear some well-traveled foreign businessmen hailing Pinoy taxi drivers as the most courteous motorists in the whole wide world.

Erwin Cruz, 26, is a writer, musician and artist who designs and develops websites for a living and writes songs for his band.

Education is the thing

AS always, Randy David has made a political issue relevant to the rest of the Filipino people. His article, "Who's afraid of FPJ," gives us a good idea about the way we conduct politics.

Blame it on the social psychology that the Spaniards have embedded in our minds (animosity toward the government), blame it on the economic gap between the rich and the poor, and blame it on whomever we want to blame, our indifference and even mistrust in the government and the politicians have made us seek comfort in the entertainment sector.

It seems that we trust the actors, personalities and media icons more than we trust politicians. This is what makes us easy prey for advertising, and worse, this influences our political beliefs. We believe that action stars who slay their enemies in the movies will also be able to slay poverty and our political problems and thus bring us to a happy ending.

But actors in politics are not the en-

tire problem. In fact, it would be unfair to blame them for the way politics is played here in the country. The problem lies in "an obsolete political culture" that has not been replaced by a new one. The failure of successive governments to raise the standard of living of the poor in the country will haunt the next generation of leaders until we find better alternatives with a new perspective.

This is why we have to put emphasis on education, and not merely emphasis but, if possible, a literal hammering into the heads of the people of the vital urgency to acquire an education, and for the government to make education available to all the people so we will not stagnate as a society and as a country. This is the only way people will learn to think for themselves, and not only go with the decision of the majority.

It's funny to think about what the "presidential aspirants" are thinking: GMA wants another term in office.



Fernando Poe Jr. counts the number of movies he has made, multiplies it with the number of Filipinos who have watched them and concludes that it would bring him a substantial number of votes. Roco is wondering if he made a mistake in taking up law instead of auditioning for a role in a soap opera.

Elections are an essential feature of democracy but they are also one of the ways in which we show how ignorant we are. This is the time to educate ourselves. Elections and their relation to our future would be a good way to start thinking.

—Jenny Magbag,
Miriam Women's Society,
Miriam College Foundation,
Quezon City

The negative side of recall elections

THAT there are "more local execs, legislators facing recall moves" (PDI, 10/4/02) is truly unfortunate. Even if they are allowed under existing laws, these recall moves undermine the essence of tenure in the public service and defeat the very purpose for which the Office of the Ombudsman exists.

In all democratic societies, the people's will in electing officials to govern them is largely determined by their common perception of every candidate's integrity, among other things. When that integrity becomes doubtful during the official's incumbency, prudence dictates that the doubt be resolved by evidence validated by due process.

In intent and effect, the recall exercises supplants due process by applying a purely political solution to an otherwise judicially remedi-

able problem in governance.

No one can say that governance in this country has been effectively improved by an interim changing of the guard. On the contrary, given the proliferation of recall moves in our midst, there is reason to believe that irregularities in the public service have become even more rampant.

It would do the country a lot of good and help officials focus on solving problems if recall options could be stayed until the next regular elections. For one thing, this will spare us the enormous cost of holding such exercises. For another, we will have more time and space to breathe air that is free of politics and the pollution it brings.

—Rudy L. Coronel,
10 Venus St., Golden Country Homes,
Alangilan, Batangas City

A modern way to sainthood

I READ the front-page article about the canonization of Josemaria Escriva last Monday, which described the new saint as "controversial" and Opus Dei as "conservative."

Since 1977, I have been attending formation activities in Opus Dei, but I never had any experience that would merit the description of "conservative."

I am the inventor of the world's latest audio system and being "old-fashioned" has no place in my activities. What I learned from Opus Dei is to do my work well so I can offer it to God. I am benefiting from this modern idea because while sanctifying my work, I am getting a gate pass to Heaven. Where can you find a better deal?

Opus Dei has taught me to be loyal to my bishop, parish priest and to also be faithful to the teachings of the Church, the Bible and frequent the sacraments without adding new doctrines or new ideas of my own. When St. Josemaria Escriva introduced in the 1930s the idea that ordinary Christians can be saints

through daily work, there was some controversy. But millions of people all over the world today have proved that sanctification of work is possible in different professions and situations. In fact, when Opus Dei applied for Vatican approval in the early 1940s, a bishop commented that they came 100 years too soon.

Now that the founder of Opus Dei, St. Josemaria Escriva, is a saint, I think these "controversial" and "conservative" labels being applied to this modern way to sanctify are out of place.

I would like to thank you for giving front-page coverage to the canonization of St. Josemaria Escriva because many people will now know that to be a saint is for people of all walks of life, for editors, writers, farmers, pilots, doctors, lawyers, ordinary employees, managers, presidents of corporations, household help, drivers, artists and all other workers.

—CARLOS S. CASAS, national vice president,
Filipino Inventors Society, 25 Sto. Domingo
Ave., Quezon City

Fernando should exercise more tact

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando should exercise some tact. Many of his statements project him to be a know-it-all. Statements like: "...even trees have no place in the sidewalk and these should go"; "...if the village gates are closed, we will permanently close them and nobody can go in or go out"; and lately, "...those in residential places should accept rezonification so that business areas can be established, those who cannot accept modernization should leave their places and go to the boondocks..."

Obviously Fernando needs to know other things. Trees give oxygen and fight pollution 24 hours a day. Business areas create traffic traps that Metro Manila has more than enough of. What are needed are open spaces

and trees. To Fernando, everything is either black or white, where everything can be approached the way building contractors deal with numerical and geometric problems.

This is not the case when dealing with Metro Manila's population of 10 million souls. People have to fend for themselves, and this creates gray areas. Metropolitan governance is very different from governing a town like Marikina. His latest statement to the effect that "the more people are angry the more successful he is" sounded smart-alecky, and showed him to be no better than a kanto boy.

The intentions of Fernando may be good, and we can understand why he thinks he must be ruthless

with incorrigible people like the sidewalk vendors. But, as a government official, he should speak and act properly to get the people's respect and cooperation. Often his statements are outright challenges that turn people off. He should think first before saying anything. Even engineers verify numerical and geometric figures before making any conclusions.

By the way, whatever happened to his first pronouncement that the color-coding scheme had to go and buses will be given three lanes out of the five on Edsa? Was he merely shooting from the hip?

—COL. ARMANDO GATMAITAN (ret.),
PMAAA Alumni Center,
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Senior citizens law still widely ignored

A FLURRY of awards was given out recently by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to recognize some notable senior citizens. The rest of them live private lives—unhonored, neglected and often insulted by the public transport, health, entertainment, food institutions selling their services and goods.

I wish to call the attention of Sen. Edgardo Angara who authored the senior citizens law (RA 7432) to the fact that the rights and privileges of old people are observed more in the breach than in the compliance.

The violators include five-star hotels

(and the smaller ones) that tell you when you're ready to pay that the 20 percent discount is only on food, and other hotels that tell you the discount is only on lodging.

The most blatant violation of the law is being committed by the MRT which thousands of senior citizens ride every day. They are told that the 20 percent discount is already included in their tickets since its operations started as a promo.

Similar violations often occur in fast-food outlets which say they don't give a senior citizen discount for sales of more than P100 or provincial pharmacies that claim their medicines are already priced low.

It seems that everyone just follows his own interpretation of how much and when a senior citizen can rightly claim a discount.

I'm bringing this out because October is supposed to be "Consumer Welfare Month," according to Presidential Proclamation No. 1098. Many senior citizens with ID's feel insulted when they are made to beg for the 20 percent discount that the law entitles them to. They simply want to see the law enforced and those violating it, specially big corporate entities, punished with dispatch.

—RAUL E. SEGOVIA, chair, Citizens'
Alliance for Consumer Protection

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True grit

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

BY now everyone knows about MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando's campaign to rid our sidewalks of vendors. In contrast, there's been little media coverage about his plans to tackle traffic around private schools, malls and subdivisions. They're good plans, I have to say, but I learned about them only through passing mention in AM radio newscasts and through the Village Voice newspapers that are circulated in private subdivisions.

Let me describe the plans in a nutshell. For the malls and shopping centers, Fernando wants the owners to work out new traffic schemes to decongest the traffic. For the subdivisions, Fernando wants roads of some of them opened to public use. Finally, for some of the private schools (La Salle Greenhills, Xavier, ICA, Miriam, Ateneo de Manila in Loyola), he is proposing a drop-and-ride scheme where parents bring their children to some less crowded areas of the city from where they will be transported to their schools on MMDA buses.

There hasn't been an outcry against these proposals but there are certainly ominous mumbling and grumbling. Fernando's up against the rich here, and implementing his schemes will be a formidable test of his mettle.

No doubt, the vendors contribute to our traffic problems but we often forget how the rich and the powerful need to answer for more than a fair share here. The private schools are a case in point. Four of the six lanes on Ortigas Avenue were, at one time, taken over by vehicles out to pick up kids at La Salle Greenhills. After the MMDA requested La Salle's administration to crack down on the drivers, there were dramatic results: driving past La Salle used to take 10 to 15 minutes, now it takes about five minutes.

The MMDA's proposed solutions are technical, but they risk failure if they don't deal with the social dynamics behind the traffic. The problem isn't just a matter of having many cars but drivers who don't want to observe traffic rules. And they do this because they know they can violate all traffic rules with impunity—from counterflow to triple parking—because they're working for the high and mighty.

We're also dealing with private schools who think they own the roads. Look at Poveda closing off important arteries around Ortigas and Edsa and creating vehicular aneurysms and strokes every weekday and maybe risking strokes for people as well.

Look, too, at that segment of Katipunan that turns into the UP Diliman campus. Only two lanes are designated to turn left into a narrow UP Diliman road but you have all these big shots taking over four lanes on Katipunan and then trying to squeeze into UP Diliman's two-lane road, slowing down the traffic flow and risking accidents.

What then are the prospects for solving the traffic congestion around these enclaves of privilege? The subdivisions, I hope, will be kinder about opening their roads to traffic since the proposal is to have some of their streets opened only during certain times of the day. But if the subdivisions in-

sist on guards inspecting every vehicle that goes through, then we might end up with more traffic.

I'm more pessimistic about the schools. I hear parents opposing the scheme because this might expose their children to kidnapping and while my initial reaction was, "Goodness, are you thinking a bus can be hijacked?" I now realize that there are grounds for their concern. After all, we're getting armed hold-ups, in the middle of Metro Manila and in broad daylight, of jeeps, FX vehicles and even buses.

The malls, ay, the malls. I hope the MMDA has people who understand how traffic flows. In the last year alone, the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan has come up with three different rerouting schemes, each worse than the other. I almost think the administrators are playing practical jokes on motorists, ordering vehicles to go one way this week and then another the next, with the latest scheme violating all known commonsensical principles about how traffic should flow.

We just can't seem to think out of the box. We see more cars and think the solution is to reroute traffic. No one talks about implementing existing MMDA regulations about a certain number of parking slots being required for any new commercial establishment, depending on its size. San Juan is notorious for violating this provision, with new "mini-malls" cropping up like mushrooms and tying up traffic on Ortigas Avenue even as late as 10 p.m.

No one talks about car pooling for the schools, which my parents and their friends did many years back for Xavier and ICA. This way you know your children are riding with and feel more secure.

At UP Diliman we've tried those crazy one-way rerouting schemes and found that they didn't work. More forward-looking professors point out the need to reduce the number of cars by encouraging people to use bikes and shuttles within the campus, but the problem is still one of an efficient and safe public transport system to get into UP and the other schools in the area. Unfortunately, while we drive around in circles and fume in traffic gridlocks, the mass rail transit system, including a vital segment that runs into Katipunan, languishes long past deadlines.

The upper classes are too quick to complain and too slow to give up the privileges that contribute to the problems. The measure of true grit for Bayani Fernando doesn't come with dousing the wares of sidewalk vendors with gasoline but with the way he'll tackle the powers behind subdivisions, malls and private schools. If he can handle the gods, he'll have my vote in 2004. (Oops, let me take that back. I need to know, too, if he's doing all this without thinking of 2004.)



CHEN SHUI-BIAN
President

REPUBLIC OF CHINA CELEBRATES 91st NATIONAL DAY ANNIVERSARY



HSIU-LIEN ANNETTE LU
Vice-President



YU SHI-KUN
Premier

MESSAGE

I extend my warm felicitations to our Filipino friends and my countrymen in the Philippines as we celebrate the 91st National Day of the Republic of China.

Today, we commemorate that shining moment ninety-one years ago in the history of the Chinese people exhibiting great courage when they revolted to overthrow the Ch'ing Dynasty for liberty and democracy. The triumph of the revolution on October 10, 1911 ended centuries of dynastic rule and set the beginning of a republican government.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the national father of the Republic, spearheaded the revolution but did not live long to see the fulfillment of his dream for the Chinese living in liberty and a democratic way of life. His legacy to the nation is embodied in the "Three Principles of the People: Nationalism, Democracy, and Livelihood." These have been the guiding principles of the Republic of China on Taiwan over the years in attaining its remarkable economic progress and democratization, internationally known as the "Taiwan Experience."

Today, Taiwan is the world's 16th largest economy with GNP exceeding US\$313 billion and per capita GNP of US\$14,188-the third highest in Asia. It is the 15th largest trading nation in the world with annual trading of more than US\$300 billion, third largest exporter of IT products, and third largest in foreign reserve at US\$155 billion as of end of July this year. Taiwan has become the economic powerhouse through free enterprise, entrepreneurial creativity, diligence and frugality of the people. Taiwan is now ranked 18th in world competitiveness according to the 2001 report of the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development.

On the threshold of the 21st century, the world witnessed the peaceful transfer of democratic political power in Taiwan. The 22.4 million people on Taiwan turned a new page in the history of Chinese society and democracy with their sacred votes by electing President Chen Shui-bian of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party. Taiwan's freedom and democratic development can thus serve as a model and an inspiration for others as they attempt to move from authoritarian regimes to democratic societies.

As a modern democracy, Taiwan respects civil liberties and human rights. President Chen Shui-bian has pledged to bring Taiwan back into the international human rights system. Towards this end, both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have been sent to the legislature for ratification. The Gender Equality Employment Law was enacted in March 2002. Preparations are also under way to establish a National Human Rights Commission. In 2003, Taiwan will issue the National Human Rights Program of Action in accordance with the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights.

The Republic of China on Taiwan continues to maintain commercial and substantial relations with majority of countries worldwide to mutual advantage. The ties between our people and the Filipinos dated back to pre-colonial times as evidenced by Chinese artifacts found in excavations in different parts of the Philippines and the relations between the Philippines and Taiwan have been progressing through the years. There are about 1000 Taiwanese investors in the Philippines with an accumulated direct investment value of US\$1.02 billion, including the US\$250 million in Subic Industrial Park, but not counting another US\$400 million by holding companies from various third countries. In the field of bilateral trade, the Philippines enjoyed a trade surplus of US\$520 million in 2001. The ROC was the fourth trading partner of the Philippines in 2001. There are currently about 69,121 documented overseas Filipino workers (OFW) in Taiwan, the third largest foreign work force in my country.

The ROC and the Philippines share the common values of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights. It is my fervent belief that these common values will be further strengthened in the years to come. I am also very confident that under the sagacious leadership of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the existing harmonious relationships between our two countries will be further enhanced.

For the friendship between the Philippines and Taiwan, MABUHAY!



BENJAMIN JYH-YUAN LO
Representative
TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OFFICE
in the Philippines

TAIWAN-CHINA RELATIONS

Since its establishment, the Republic of China (Taiwan) has experienced times of glory along with periods of hardship. Yet each challenge has been overcome, and we have ensured the integrity and development of our country. The presidential election of March 2000 brought about the first change of governing parties in the ROC's history and fulfilled the promise of Taiwan's democratic revolution. The country has thus consolidated its democracy and ensured a new future for its people.

As for Taiwan-China relations, Taiwan has been very active in addressing international concern over peace in the Taiwan Strait. Since assuming office, President Chen Shui-bian has taken care to proclaim his position: As long as the PRC (China) has no intention of using force against Taiwan, Taiwan has no intention of initiating changes to the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. President Chen believes that both China and Taiwan should respect the freedom of the people to make their own choices. The two sides should also engage in multifaceted exchanges based on the principles of goodwill reconciliation, active cooperation, and lasting peace.

For over two years, Taiwan has actively promoted policies aimed at fostering goodwill and liberalizing relations between Taiwan and China. The opening

of the "Three Small Links" --direct transportation, postal services, and trade between China and Taiwan's offshore islands of Kinmen and Matsu -- is a good example, as are Taiwan's decisions to expand the functions and scope of its offshore shipping center and promote the normalization of economic and trade relations under the principle of "dynamic liberalization with effective management." Allowing domestic financial institutions to open offices in China and significantly liberalizing the import of Chinese products into Taiwan are two additional steps that have been taken in this direction. To facilitate private exchanges between Taiwan and China, the government has also implemented several policies for the convenience of the people on both sides, such as opening Taiwan to PRC tourists and permitting Chinese journalists to cover news in Taiwan.

However, Beijing has chosen to ignore Taipei's friendly overtures and has yet to offer any concrete response. Instead China resorts to sharply worded propaganda and bluster in its attempts to interfere with democratic elections on Taiwan. China also goes to great lengths to suppress Taiwan's activities in the international community, using every conceivable means to block Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization and other such

TAIWAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The 21st century will be an era of deepening globalization, and transnational issues will become more complex and diverse. These trends make the concrete realization of global governance a necessity. In other words, the resolution of transnational issues (whether it be trade, environmental protection, health, crime prevention, or population) requires the participation of all members of the international community, including international organizations, sovereign states, transnational corporations, nongovernmental organizations, professional associations, and individuals.

With a population of 23 million, Taiwan is the world's 19th largest economy and 14th largest trading nation. It is a major supplier of information technology. Taiwan's experience in public health and agricultural and fisheries development is also a valuable resource. However, due to the practicalities of traditional geopolitics, the channels and ways for Taiwan to participate in and contribute to the international community are virtually restricted. Participation for Taiwan has been rejected not only by international political organizations, but also by many professional and functional bodies as well. Excluded from international participation and cooperation, the people of Taiwan are deprived of due rights and benefits. Moreover, such an exclusion is a loss to the world as a whole and presents a serious challenge to the concept of global governance.

Since his inauguration in 2000, President Chen

Shui-bian has repeatedly emphasized the importance of such universal values as democracy and human rights in foreign affairs, and Taiwan has actively participated in and contributed to the international community. Democracy puts a premium on civil society in national and global development, and the ideal behind Taiwan's "democracy" diplomacy is to help establish a global civil society in which nations share rights and duties, as well as risks and rewards, based on mutual trust and interdependence. As for human rights as a diplomatic goal, the point is not merely to improve the overall global human rights situation through such concrete measures as foreign aid, but also to ensure that the basic human rights of the people of Taiwan are not denied or infringed.

The trend towards globalization makes participation in the tasks of global governance not only a right but also an obligation of Taiwan. Active participation in international organizations and related activities are the necessary means to realize global governance. The international community cannot afford to ignore any member, especially an important actor like Taiwan, if it hopes to achieve sustainable development. Likewise, Taiwan's survival and development are of course closely tied to global events. Only when Taiwan is able to play an active role on the global stage, and the international community warmly embraces Taiwan in return, can the ideal of global governance in a globalized world be truly fulfilled.

STRATEGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TAIWAN

Taiwan has been able to achieve sustainable economic development inspite of a shortage of natural resources and other unfavorable conditions. This success should be attributed to the initiative and hardwork of the people, the adventurous spirit of local entrepreneurs, and the pragmatic and forward-looking development strategies formulated by the government at each stage of national development. Taiwan is now an important global production center for information technology and plastic products. Indeed, it leads the world in the areas of professional OEM chip foundries, semiconductor design, and the production of TFT-LCDs and LEDs.

The tremendous changes in the global competitive environment at the turn of the century have caused a shift in regional competitiveness. Globalization of the world economy has also brought changes to the international division of labor, speeding up the practice of global logistics management and distribution of industry. As the knowledge-based economic system builds momentum, new materials and new technologies come into use on a daily basis. Future technological breakthroughs will thoroughly transform the current competitive landscape. To enhance the advantages Taiwan's

industries already enjoy and encourage further innovation, the government has formulated the following strategies for the development of major industries at the present phase:

- I. The government will continue its efforts to create an investment environment with zero obstacles and improve basic public utilities such as water, electricity, and telecommunications. Laws and regulations will be revised. The entire range of basic facilities for industrial development will be provided, and industrial parks will be developed. The government will also effectively promote domestic investment and actively attract overseas investment to Taiwan.
- II. Taiwan will improve its technological infrastructure, cultivate human capital, and increase capacity for industrial research and innovation. The goal is to develop Taiwan into a global center for research and innovation. The government is putting special emphasis on developing widely applicable industrial technologies, establishing a technology data-base, setting up research and testing facilities, and building a platform on which industry, government, and research institutions can coordinate their efforts. Projects

already in progress include technology research for key industries (such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, system-on-chip technology, and telecommunications technology) and the establishment of research and development centers (for genome research, software design, wireless communications, telecommunications, and nanotechnology applications). Through the application of Taiwan's powerful manufacturing base, together with increased research and innovation and the nurturing of emerging high-tech industries, it is hoped that Taiwan will develop into an innovation headquarters for domestic businesses and eventually a regional, R&D center for multinational corporations.

III. The promotion of development in key industries will be increased.

- A. The government will set up industry promotion offices and establish schools to train professionals. The government will also actively promote its "two trillion, twin stars" program. The goal of this program is to raise the value of production in the semiconductor and image display industries to NT\$1 trillion (US\$28.5 billion) each, and to build the digital content and biotechnology sectors into star industries, all by 2006.
- B. The government will foster a high-quality workforce to solve the imbalance in the labor supply resulting from adjustments in Taiwan's industrial structure.

In keeping with the global trend towards technological and industrial development, the government will forge ahead with the implementation of the industrial development strategies discussed above. Taiwan will be transformed from a "production-based Taiwan" to a "knowledge-based Taiwan." Working together to create a new economic miracle, the government and private sector will hasten the development of Taiwan into an environmentally friendly and technologically advanced "green silicon island."



ROC President Chen Shui-bian and Vice-President Annette Lu wave to the crowd.

international bodies.

Faced with the threat of military force, we firmly believe that democracy is the best language for the Taiwan-China dialogue, just as peace in the Taiwan Strait is a necessary condition that must not be challenged. Taiwan will continue to adhere to the

position that it has long held. We are willing to work together with the international community and make a great contribution to the consolidation of the democratic community in the Asia-Pacific, the promotion of democracy in China, and the safeguarding of regional stability and prosperity.

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The World

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Powell: UN closer to agreement on Iraq



BUSH laying out his case

WASHINGTON—Key United Nations members edged closer to agreement on Iraq, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Tuesday, as the US Congress debated whether to authorize President George W. Bush to force Baghdad's disarmament.

Powell said he was in intense talks with French and Russian counterparts over their resistance to using the threat of force against Iraq in a UN Security Council resolution.

"The Iraqis are not going to do anything unless there is pressure," Powell said. "It would be better for this pressure to be contained in one resolution."

Russia and France, who along with the US, Britain and China are the five veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council, oppose the threat of force against Iraq in any new resolution.

"I'm in constant contact with my French colleague, my Russian colleague," Powell said. "We are trying to see if there is a way to resolve this difference of view."

In Congress, where the Senate is still debating competing resolutions, the House of Representatives could pass the single resolution on the table by Thursday, allow Bush to act unilaterally in case the UN fails to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

Bush, ratcheting up the war rhetoric in a speech in Knoxville, Tennessee, warned "the full force and fury of the United States military will be unleashed" if Iraq does not disarm.

"And make no mistake about it, we will prevail." But Central In-

telligence Agency chief George Tenet warned the chances are high Iraq will resort to chemical and biological weapons if attacked by the United States.

"Should Saddam conclude that a US-led attack could no longer be deterred, he probably would become much less constrained in adopting terrorist actions," Tenet wrote to Senator Bob Graham of Florida.

Bush Monday had branded Saddam "a homicidal dictator who is addicted to weapons of mass destruction" and warned that the

Iraqi threat combined ties to terrorists and a deadly arms program.

With lawmakers in Washington falling in line behind tough action, Russia said it was ready to support a new UN resolution that would put teeth in new weapons inspections.

"If proposals are submitted to the UN Security Council that raise the effectiveness of weapons inspectors in Iraq, we will support them," Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying. **AFP**

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Iraq may not strike unless provoked—CIA

WASHINGTON—CIA Director George Tenet has told lawmakers that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, if provoked by fears of an imminent US-led attack, might assist Islamic extremists in launching an attack against the United States with weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam might see it as "his last chance to exact vengeance by taking a large number of victims with him," Tenet wrote in a letter Tuesday.

Tenet's assessment came as both the House and Senate debated a resolution to authorize President Bush to use force against Iraq, and followed Bush's assertion that the Iraqi leader might be planning a chemical or biological attack on US interests.

It is unlikely that such an attack by Saddam would come unless he felt cornered, Tenet's letter suggested.

Still, Tenet wrote, "Iraq's increasing support to extremist Palestinians, coupled with growing indications of a relationship with al-Qaida, suggest that Baghdad's links to terrorists will increase, even absent US military action."

In a statement issued later, Tenet said there was "no inconsistency" between his letter and Bush's policy.

"Although we think the chances of Saddam initiating a weapons of mass destruction attack at this moment are low—in part because it would constitute an admission that he possesses weapons of mass destruction—there is no question that the likelihood of Saddam using weapons of mass destruction against the United States or our allies in the region for blackmail, deterrence, or otherwise, grows as his arsenal continues to build," the statement said.

Tenet, in the letter read before a joint hearing of the House and Senate intelligence committees, suggested Baghdad "for now appears to be drawing a line short of conducting terrorist attacks with conventional or chemical or biological weapons."

The Bush administration contends that going after Saddam is necessary because he has the capability to use weapons of mass destruction and is trying to expand it. The administration also stresses that he has used them in the past. **AP**

Sharon vows further attacks despite concerns

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday defended an Israeli raid that killed 16 Palestinians and vowed further strikes in the Gaza Strip despite international condemnation and concern in the White House.

But Sharon expressed regret for the latest civilian casualties in an attack on Monday that Israel said was aimed at showing militants they had nowhere to hide.

Palestinian officials called the assault a massacre, saying all of the dead and most of the 80 wounded were civilians, including 10 killed by a missile fired into a crowd gathered near a mosque. One of the wounded died later in hospital.

Israel said most of those killed were gunmen. As internal unrest flared in Gaza and fresh violence hit the West Bank, Sharon vowed to keep up pressure on militants despite US criticism of the attack in Khan Younis at a time when Washington is seeking Arab support for a possible war on Iraq.

The White House said on Tuesday that US President George W. Bush was deeply concerned about the Israeli raid.

"The president urges Israel to minimize the risk to civilian populations in areas in which Israeli Defense Forces are operating," spokesperson Ari Fleischer said in a statement.

The latest cycle of bloodshed and retribution has all but buried a new international peace initiative aimed at ending two years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting.

"I think that the operation was a success," Sharon told reporters in an assessment of the strike. "We have to take into consideration that the Israeli forces are making every effort to contain raids and attacks by terrorist organizations." **Reuters**

'TERRORIST' ATTACK

2 Kuwaitis fire on US troops, kill Marine

KUWAIT—Two Kuwaitis opened fire on US troops on a military exercise on a Kuwaiti island in the Gulf, killing a Marine and wounding another in what the Interior Ministry called a "terrorist" attack.

Marines then killed the two assailants after they had sped away in a pickup truck, in which investigators found three AK-47 assault rifles and ammunition, US officials said.

Kuwait's Interior Ministry said "This is a terrorist incident against Marines training on Kuwait's Failaka Island just off the coast of the capital Kuwait City."

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesperson said the Marines left the island after the shoot-

ing but that the exercises were due to resume on Wednesday.

The US Navy said the incident which occurred at about 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday "was an unprovoked attack."

Kuwaiti police were holding 31 people as possible witnesses in an investigation being conducted by Kuwait and US military authorities. News of the rare attack further raised the level of concern in a country where 1.4 million foreigners live.

The attackers approached the Marines in a pick-up truck, stepped out of the vehicle and fired at the troops.

One Marine was shot in the chin and stomach and died during surgery at an armed

forces hospital in Kuwait City. A second Marine was wounded in the arm and was in non-life threatening condition after surgery, US officials said.

Their names were not being released pending notification of next of kin.

Defense sources said that at the time of the attack the Marines were firing blanks as part of the annual Eager Mace exercise in the Gulf Arab state as US President George W. Bush sought international backing for a possible attack on Iraq which has raised tensions in the region.

The Marines then switched to live rounds and shot dead the attackers, one source said.

The island was later sealed off.

Iraq invaded its southern neighbour Kuwait in 1990 and was driven out by a US-led international coalition. Washington is demanding a strong new UN resolution demanding Iraq submit to stringent UN inspections for weapons of mass destruction—which it denies having—or face military action.

The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry named the dead attackers as Kuwaitis Anas Ahmad Ibrahim Abdel-Rehim al-Kandari, born in 1981, and Jassem Hamad Mubarak Salem al-Hajri, born in 1976.

Kuwaiti sources said the attackers were cousins and were related to three men held by the

US military at a prison camp at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Kuwaiti officials could not immediately confirm this and the Pentagon in Washington had no comment. The Interior Ministry did not say if Tuesday's attackers were Islamic militants, but security sources told Reuters they were probably linked to anti-American Islamic groups.

But the head of a Kuwaiti defense committee for the Kuwaiti detainees, Khalid al-Odah, said there was only a very distant relationship and "not at all direct."

"This attack is not linked . . . One of the three Kandaris held in Guantanamo is not even related to the other two," he said. *Reuters*

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OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT

Washington
sniper beyond
police's grasp

SARAH Ramos, 34, of Silver Spring, Md., shown in this undated family photo, was shot and killed, Oct. 3, 2002, outside a post office in Silver Spring. AP

BETHESDA—Police hunting for a sniper who has killed six people at random and wounded two others in the Washington area said on Tuesday the shooter who has unnerved residents remained beyond their grasp.

"Are we getting any closer? We certainly hope so," said Montgomery County, Maryland, Police Chief Charles Moose, who is heading the task force investigating the sniper shootings.

Local schools were under heavy police protection on Tuesday, one day after a 13-year-old boy was critically wounded while being dropped off at his school in Bowie, Maryland.

In a report quoting law enforcement sources, the local CBS Television News affiliate said detectives who recovered a shell casing in a wooded area near Monday's shooting also found a Tarot Card bearing a message from the gunman to police.

Law enforcement sources said the message written on the back of the so-called "Death Card" read: "Dear Policeman, I am God," WUSA-TV reported. WUSA said Prince George's County, Maryland, police declined comment on any evidence that might have been located. Contacted about the report, a police spokesperson said that she could not confirm it.

Prince George's County Police Chief Gerald Wilson told reporters that police at area schools would "remain until we bring the killer to justice."

At schools across the region, students were kept indoors, and after-school activities and field trips were canceled.

"I would like to think I have got the words to keep people calm, but I'm not sure I do," Moose said.

Each victim was hit with a single shot fired from a high-powered rifle. There is no sign that the victims, aged 13 to 72, knew each other, but ballistics evidence has connected the crimes. *Reuters*

More fighting
in Ivory Coast

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast—Ivory Coast braced for more fighting on Wednesday as rebels strengthened positions in their stronghold and President Laurent Gbagbo told them he would only talk if they dropped their guns.

Rebels of the Patriotic Movement of Ivory Coast held most of the north after a three-week-long uprising that has left hundreds dead and raised fears of full-blown civil war.

Loyalist forces launched a major offensive at the weekend after Gbagbo rejected West African proposals, backed by former colonial power France, for a ceasefire that would have frozen front lines and left the rebels with their guns.

Gbagbo said that to talk to the rebels before they disarmed would mean giving them legitimacy and could encourage similar movements across the continent.

"Our states are fragile. We do not have the right to make them more so," he said in his second national address since a failed Sept. 19 coup that has grown into a rebellion.

Without going into detail, Gbagbo said he "was willing to consider new peace proposals he had been offered by the region."

After beating off two days of heavy assaults, rebels on Tuesday strengthened their positions in Bouake, Ivory Coast's biggest city after the coastal commercial hub of Abidjan, 360 km to the south.

Military sources said government troops, who punched through to the city centre with armoured vehicles on Monday before drawing back, could soon be expected to launch a new attack on Bouake. *Reuters*



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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

'People power' over bad road

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Bowling to pressure initiated by determined students, public works personnel here are working overtime to patch the "alligator cracks" that pockmarked the road linking Iloilo to Antique. More than 6,000 residents in southern Iloilo supported the students' campaign, demanding the repair of the 82-kilometer national highway that passes through the towns of Oton, Tigbauan, Guimbal, Miagao and San Joaquin, and up to Iloilo's boundary with Antique. Thirty-three students of Community Development and Philippine Social Realities (CD 101) of the University of the Philippines also sent letters to public works officials, politicians and President Macapagal Arroyo, asking for the immediate repair of the deplorable road.

Forum

Mayors in the towns of Oton, Tigbauan, Miagao and San Joaquin allowed the students to set up tables in public markets and plazas.

Students from St. Therese MTC Colleges in Tigbauan and Southern Iloilo Polytechnic College also signed the petition.

"We are now doing the repairs. I thank the students (for the signature campaign) because politicians and public works officials in Manila have taken notice of the sorry state of the road and promised to speedily release funds for repair," said Laureano Alba, head Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) first engineering district.

Alba said the DPWH is now repairing 1,826 linear meters of the road by scarifying the badly damaged sections and covering them with gravel and asphalt.

The DPWH personnel have been working overtime since Sept. 24 because they do not want to get more bad press.

Potholes

Constructed in 1982 by Korean firm Hanil Construction, the Iloilo-Antique Road is now pockmarked with potholes of all shapes and sizes, rendering travel difficult, rain or shine.

In a letter to DPWH regional director Wilfredo Agustino dated Sept. 5, assistant first district engineer Mike Gutierrez Jr. said the road had plenty of defects such as "longitudinal and transversal alligator cracks, rutting, raveling and potholes."

Gutierrez said the Iloilo-Antique Road was 19 years old but its life span was only 10 years. His office, he added, had patched the potholes with premix asphalt every year but some portions were already beyond repair.

The CD 101 students said medical opinions they gathered showed the defective road is both a health and economic hazard to travelers.

The dusty road could worsen asthma and other respiratory ailments. Pregnant women traversing the road could also risk a miscarriage as well as premature labor.

Dr. Anthony Montalban of the Miagao health office said the bad road was partly to blame for accidents in the town.

NDF ACCUSATION

Reb's daughter 'abducted' by Army

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The National Democratic Front (NDF) has accused the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) of abducting the daughter of a ranking rebel leader in Eastern Visayas.

In an e-mailed statement by its public information office dated Oct. 1, the NDF said Rosa Guadiana, 18, has been missing since Aug. 22 and is believed to have been "held-hostage" by the members of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan town, Samar.

The missing teenager is the daughter of Abdias Guadiana who was identified as Dodong Peñaranda in the NDF statement.

Abdias is a consultant of the NDF panel in the peace negotiations with the government and is allegedly a ranking rebel leader in Eastern Visayas.

The NDF statement said Rosa's relatives feared that she was being held hostage by the 8th ID to entrap or force her father to surrender.

"The NDF appeals to all concerned citizens, including civil libertarians, to help find Rosa and render her justice," the statement said.

Human rights group Karapatan appealed for the release of Rosa, claiming she was the 15th victim of forced disappearance in less than two years under the Macapagal administration.

No calls

The INQUIRER tried to reach Major Gen. Romeo Dominguez, 8th ID commander, but he refused to take calls from his mobile phone.

When the INQUIRER sent him a text message about Rosa's alleged detention, Dominguez' reply was "negative." He did not explain what he meant by that.

A fact sheet of Karapatan said Rosa was last seen boarding an Eagle Star passenger bus in Catarman town, Northern Samar to Catbalogan. She was reportedly wearing a lavender-colored blouse and a pair of jeans.

The fact sheet said Rosa's aunt, Ponciana Tobello, a public school teacher in San Roque town, Northern Samar, had asked her to buy medicine in Catbalogan. Tobello expected her to be home in 30 minutes.

Tobello reported Rosa's disappearance to the Catarman police and had made a public appeal through radio stations to help her find her niece. She also sought the help of human rights organizations.

The Karapatan said that at around 8 p.m., she was reportedly seen talking to an unidentified man seated beside her inside a bus.

'Investigation'

The unidentified man reportedly boarded the bus in Barangay

Maulong, Catbalogan in front of Camp Lukban, the headquarters of 8th ID.

The NDF statement said a witness whom it did not identify allegedly saw the man "investigating" Rosa. The man, the statement said, was still investigating Rosa when the alleged witness alighted in Catbalogan town proper at about 8 p.m. on Aug. 22.

The witness had seen the man several times in the past, boarding and alighting at the military camp, said the statement.

The NDF said it held the AFP and the Macapagal administration responsible for the disappearance of Rosa "as well as other victims of heightening political repression."

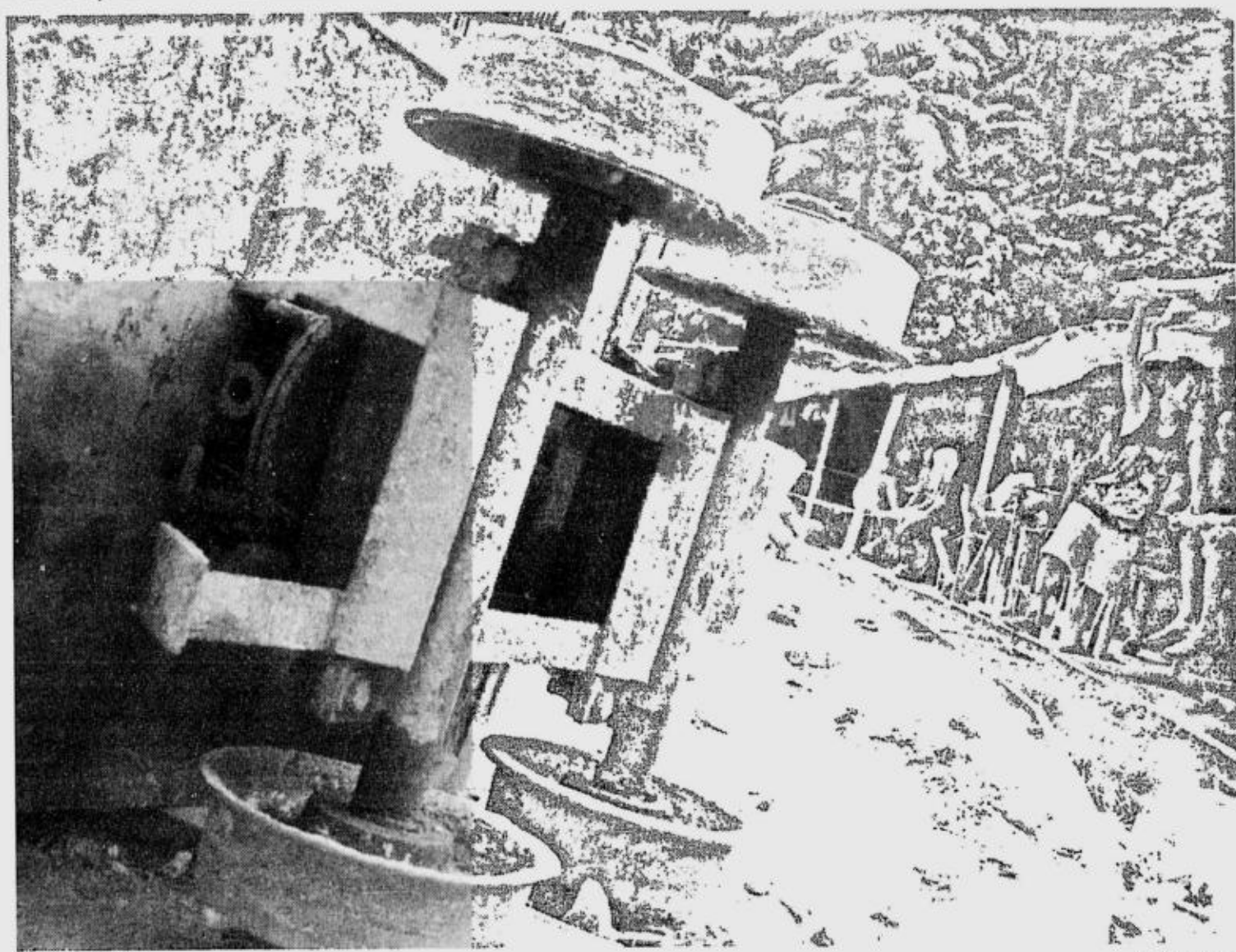
"Directed by the United States which has openly joined the 'all-out war' against the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, the AFP and PNP have intensified suppression

campaign in the countryside. Even leaders of legal progressive people's organizations in the urban areas have become targets and victims of fascist attacks," said the statement.

The NDF is an umbrella organization of underground groups including the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the NPA.

Peace talks between the NDF and the government had bogged down since last year due to serious disagreements in the holding of the talks aimed at ending the world's longest-running communist insurgency.

The United States recently placed the CPP and NPA on the list of foreign terrorist organizations. But the NDF condemned the "terrorist" tag. The NPA responded with daring offensives nationwide in recent weeks. With a report from Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau



DERAILED
A TRAM cart lies on its side in the gold rush area of Mt. Diwata following the government's takeover of mining in the site.

EDWIN BACASMAS

2 Cebu cops in trouble for extortion, holdup

By Jhunnex Napallacan and
Jolene Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two policemen in Cebu are in hot water for various offenses.

One is facing summary dismissal proceedings for allegedly robbing a taxi driver. Another has been restricted to camp for allegedly extorting from a suspected robber.

A robbery complaint was filed against PO1 Gonzalo Matundo, 29 and a native of Leyte, after taxi driver Diosdado Gascon identified him as the one who held him up yesterday dawn.

SPO1 Fernando Velarde of the police theft and robbery section

is facing investigation after robbery suspect Joel Nodalo claimed that the policeman demanded protection money from him.

Gascon told policemen that Matundo boarded his taxicab at about 3 a.m. and told him to take him to the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

When they reached the New Imus Road in Barangay Lorega-San Miguel, Matundo pointed a knife at him and took P1,400 from his pocket.

The suspect allegedly tried to stab the taxi driver but Gascon was able to parry the attack. As a result, the taxicab hit a post, giving Matundo a chance to escape.

Gascon immediately reported

the robbery to the police, not knowing that the suspect was a policeman.

Members of the Police Mobile Group caught Matundo while walking in Barangay Lorega-San Miguel. It was only then when the arresting officers realized that they had just collared a fellow cop.

Supt. Josephus Angan, acting Cebu City police chief, ordered the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau to look into Nodalo's allegation that Velarde had demanded protection money from him.

Angan also prohibited Velarde to join the operations to be launched by his unit pending result of the investigation.

The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas also launched a separate inquiry into the allegations raised by Nodalo, who has been tagged as mastermind in a series of robberies in Cebu City.

Velarde had denied the charges, saying Nodalo wanted to get back at him because he was part of the team that arrested Nodalo on Oct. 3 in Negros Occidental.

Nodalo claimed Velarde had demanded P1,000 for his protection at least 15 times since 2000 when he was being hunted down for his alleged involvement in the robberies.

The last time he allegedly gave money to Velarde was in May, Nodalo claimed.

neers had also agreed to stop hauling sand until the repair was completed.

According to him, the company was compelled to reconstruct the earth dike at seven-meter high.

Dungca also scored the DPWH and MPE-PMO, noting that officials of the agencies were the ones who gave China Waters the permit to quarry.

This was the second time that the municipal government lost a vital dike. The first was the Sta. Barbara Dike that illegal quarrying activities totally flattened last year. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Chinese firm assailed for destroying anti-flood dike

BACOLOR, Pampanga—A Chinese construction firm, which won several multimillion-peso Japanese-funded anti-lahar projects here, was blamed by local officials for destroying one of this town's dikes.

Officials of the China Waters on Wednesday apologized and promised to rebuild the 200-meter portion of the Cabetican Dike, according to engineer Mario Bandalera, chief of the Mount Pinatubo Emergency Project Management Office (MPE-PMO).

Based on the investigation of engineers from the MPE-PMO, an agency under the Department of

Public Works and Highways, China Waters had quarried sand beyond its designated zone.

Bandalera said the sand was supposed to be used as filling materials for a concrete dike the company was constructing in Guagua town or along Package 6 of the P3.5-billion Mt. Pinatubo urgent mitigation measures project funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

He said China Waters originally planned to derive the fillings from fishponds.

Abandoning the plan after realizing that the soil was soggy and took days to dry, company engineers decided to haul sand

downstream of the Cabetican Dike.

This dike protects the villages of Tinajeros and Sta. Inez where some 1,200 residents have returned, according to Mayor Romeo Dungca.

"We condemn this act. It has heightened the risks of lahar and floods to our residents," Dungca told the INQUIRER.

Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 and lahar flows in the succeeding years buried 17 out of 21 villages in Bacolor.

Infrastructure projects by the government in the town had triggered a reversal of the 1991 exodus.

Almost 30,000 residents had returned as the DPWH built roads, drainages and dikes since 1997.

"The destruction of the Cabetican dike indicates China Waters' disregard for the safety of our residents," Dungca said.

He said the company's workers were caught scraping sand out of the dike on Tuesday.

DPWH sources said, however, it was incorrect of Dungca to be blaming China Waters.

Illegal quarrying by firms from Bacolor and nearby Guagua and Sta. Rita towns also damaged the dike, the sources said.

Bandalera said company engi-

Ilocos Lakas execs grunt over Chavit

BAGUIO CITY—The administration party formerly known as Lakas-NUCD-UMDP is fortifying its strategic advantage in the provinces to "de-fang" former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, whose alleged influence in the 2001 elections led to party defeats, a party official said here Monday.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, Lakas Cordillera director, said Singson had interfered in the nomination of party candidates by displacing party veterans with "his own choices" last year.

"Some of his choices were not even from Lakas, although party officials endorsed them," Domogan said.

During last Saturday's Lakas special assembly, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, party president, restored the power of regional party directors to select party nominees for the 2004 elections.

A key party rule directs the party to strictly abide by the decisions of regional party coordinators in the selection of provincial nominees, Domogan, who attended the assembly, said.

"Guingona went straight to the point. He told us he did not want a repeat of last year's confusion, which was really the consequence of having the People Power Coalition run by Chavit to also (run the affairs of) Lakas," Domogan said.

He said Singson's supposed choices "conflicted with the nominees of the Lakas regional directorate," prompting several party members to campaign against each other. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gov invites deportees

OZAMIZ CITY—Gov. Loreto Ocampos of Misamis Occidental yesterday urged Filipinos forcibly ejected from Sabah to consider settling in the province.

Ocampos said the province may not be a land of promise but "their dreams can still be possible here in our homeland."

He said skilled workers from Sabah who have relatives in the province might find their future in agriculture.

Misamis Occidental is an agricultural province.

"We might not know that armed with valuable skills, they can help deepen local entrepreneurship and build economic prosperity not just for their respective family but for their new community," Ocampos said.

Misamis Occidental, particularly this city, has once hosted evacuees from the war between government and Moro secessionists in the 1970s, especially those coming from the Lanao provinces just across Pangasinan Bay.

A number of them have returned although many stayed. *Ryan Rosau and Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cebu officials demand control over police like Metro mayors

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Local officials in Cebu also want to have operational control over the police in their jurisdiction.

Gov. Pablo Garcia and the mayors in the province are urging President Macapagal to include Cebu in the implementation of Memorandum Order 77.

Garcia said the local officials should have operational control of their police because they are in the frontline in the campaign against criminality.

Campaign

He said local officials are always blamed when the peace and order situation in their localities deteriorate yet the mayors have no operational control over the police.

The President has issued Memorandum 77, directing the National Police Commission (Napolcom) to ensure that the

mayors of the 17 cities and towns of Metro Manila would exercise operational supervision and control over the local police.

But opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel criticized the President's memorandum, saying it was "a form of deception."

Deceptive

He said the memorandum was "deceptive" because the Napolcom still maintains administrative control, or the power to hire and fire policemen, over the Metro Manila police forces.

While he was not opposed to mayors having control over the police, Pimentel said the Philippine National Police (PNP) Law should be amended first.

But Garcia, a noted constitutionalist who had also served as Cebu congressman, said Pimentel has no basis in question-

ing the legality of the President's memorandum.

"I am ready to adopt (the memorandum in Cebu). I have no question about it. It is even better if the memorandum is implemented nationwide," the governor said in Cebuano.

Amended

He said Pimentel should remember that the PNP Law was already amended and that the President can issue an executive order.

"The PNP Law has been amended and the Napolcom will issue the implementing rules after the memorandum of the President," said Garcia.

Garcia said majority of mayors in Cebu's 53 towns and cities were supportive of the memorandum's implementation in Cebu although they have yet to come up with an official stand.

He said they might formalize their request to the President during the governor's scheduled meeting with the mayors on Tuesday night.



'Bagnet' main agenda of Bongbong, FPJ meet

LAOAG CITY—Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. dashed speculations that he and movie icon Fernando Poe Jr. had hatched a political game plan come 2004 elections when they met here for lunch last Sunday.

Marcos invited Poe to lunch at the former's seaside residence in Barangay Suba where the actor was filming his upcoming movie "Agimat ng Lahi" (Legend of the Hawk).

"We just talked about bagnet (the Ilocanos' delicacy or deep-fried pork meat). The rest of it was merely laughing matters. It was just a social visit for Panday (Poe's name in a movie)," the governor said.

Marcos said their discussions dwelled lengthily on their common friend, former President Joseph Estrada who was detained at the Veterans Memorial Hospital due to plunder charges.

Poe, who is rumored to be setting his sights on the presidency, had been on location shooting since last week in various Ilocos Norte sites where 80 percent of his film would be shot, his production crew said.

He courted media attention

when he appeared briefly at the national convention of the Philippine Councilors' League, which was on a three-day meeting at the Fort Locandia Resort Hotel here.

Poe did not have an official function in the affair. But he was invited to meet some 450 delegates from across the country.

Marcos said that he asked Poe about rumors he was running for president to face the likely administration standard bearer, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The inevitable question kept coming up if he was running or not. But he never said anything," Marcos said.

"I don't think he's decided to (run for the presidency). Between you and me, it appears that he is still undecided. Antayin na lang natin ang susunod na kabanata, (let's just wait for events to unfold)."

Marcos and his elder sister, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, were also being wooed to seek a post in the Senate.

The speculations, observers said, were fanned by the visibility of both Marcos siblings on national television. Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mayor stops 'overpriced' traffic lights project

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Tacloban Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. has decided to stop the implementation of the city government's traffic signal lights project, which was allegedly overpriced by P12 million.

"The project was too controversial, so I have decided to call it off temporarily. Anyway, the city government has set aside a budget for it," he told the INQUIRER.

Romualdez said he planned to meet with the city government's department heads and members of the City Council this week to talk about his decision to shelve the project.

He, however, clarified that the project could still be revived once all the controversies surrounding its implementation had been settled.

Romualdez, who reassumed his post last Monday after almost a five-month absence due to health reasons, said he planned to seek public opinion on whether or not to push through with the project.

He added that public opinion would be considered during an evaluation of the project. He,

however, stressed the need for a traffic management system in the wake of the city's worsening traffic problem.

This need was the reason why the city government took the initiative of setting aside budget for a modern traffic light system.

"But it did not come to my mind that it will become too controversial," he said.

The city government had procured four traffic lights worth P22 million. These facilities were supposed to light the intersections on Veteranos-Rizal Avenue, Veteranos-Real, Salazar-Justice Romualdez, and Real-Independencia Streets.

Based on a copy of a purchase order that was made for the winning bidder, Rocha Construction Inc., each traffic light unit cost P5.5 million.

But then acting Mayor Edwin Chua cancelled the project last month based on the recommendation of City Legal Officer Godofredo Quimsing and the Commission on Audit (COA).

Quimsing and the COA agreed with city officials to review the project and reports that it was overpriced.

Comelec removes block to cityhood of Malolos

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Finally, this historic town, which lost its cityhood bid in a 1999 plebiscite, has become Bulacan's newest and second city.

In a 71-page decision, the Commission on Elections on Tuesday favored the petition to nullify the results of the plebiscite converting Malolos into a component city.

"The instant protest is granted, thereby converting Malolos into a component city as approved by the majority of the votes cast in the plebiscite held in the town on Dec. 18, 1999," ruled Comelec Commissioner Ralph Lantion and two other commissioners of the second division.

Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, author of the bill converting this town into a compo-

nent city, described the development as "a prolonged victory of the people."

Ex-mayor Resty Roque and two other persons sought to nullify the plebiscite results due to irregularities. They said no votes were not properly counted.

A total of 11,535 people voted against cityhood while 9,321 people voted for it. However, after a new count of the votes, the Comelec said 10,746 people approved cityhood while 8,402 voted against it.

Comelec commissioners said several ballots were written by one person while others were missing.

Malolos, which has 59 villages, is also the capital of Bulacan. Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Illnesses kill 40 inmates

DAVAO CITY—Some 40 inmates at the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (formerly Dapecol) in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte allegedly died because of various illnesses complicated by the lack of concern from jail officials.

A prisoner who works in the penitentiary's hospital made the revelation in a letter he sent to Ferdie Lintuan and Jun Gutierrez, both radio commentators of the Eagle Broadcasting Corp. here. The letter-sender had requested anonymity but he provided some dates to back up his claim.

Anthony Allada and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Poor bootblack from Tondo,' founder of Baguio school dies

BAGUIO CITY—Educator and sports leader, Dr. Fernando Bautista, founder of the University of Baguio, died Wednesday morning after a lingering illness. He was 94.

Called "Tatay" by everyone in this city, Bautista, the "poor bootblack from Tondo who made good," founded with his late wife Rosa Castillo the Baguio Technical and Commercial Institute in 1948.

He taught in Manila elementary schools immediately after graduating from the Philippine Normal School (now Philippine Normal University) in 1928 and at the University of the Philippines in Baguio in the early 1940s, before founding the Baguio Tech.

While teaching in elementary schools in Tondo and Sta. Cruz, he enrolled at UP Manila on Padre Faura, where he obtained his Master of Arts in Education.

On Aug. 7, 1969, Baguio Tech became a university and Bautista was installed as its first president.

He also helped organize in 1956 the Baguio Military Institute at Irisan Heights, 8 km from downtown Baguio, as an exclusive boys' school. With him in the BMI were shipping and sugar magnate Benito Lopez and Gen. Jesus Vargas.

In 1971, he represented Baguio-Benguet in

the Constitutional Convention, together with Floro Bugnosen.

A civic leader in Baguio, Bautista was president of the Baguio Educational Council, the UP Alumni Association, the Knights of Rizal, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and the Rotary Club.

On the national level, he was president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, national chair of the Coordinating Council for Private Educational Associations, vice president of the Philippine Association for Graduate Education, and president of the Private Schools Athletic Association.

As a sports leader, he had been to all the Olympic Games since 1960 when it was held in Rome, and to all the Asian Games since 1954 when it was held in Manila.

He served as a juror in several regional, national and international athletic meets.

Bautista is survived by his second wife, Constancia Guevara, children Benjamin, Reinaldo, Leonides, Herminio and Virgilio and their spouses, 49 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

His body lies at the UB's HRM Mansion on Assumption Road. Interment will be announced later. PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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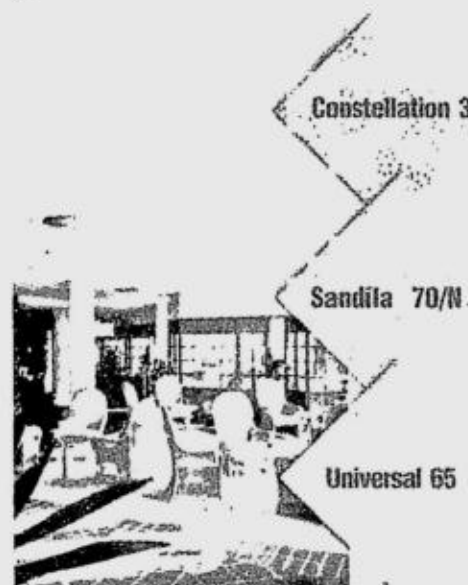
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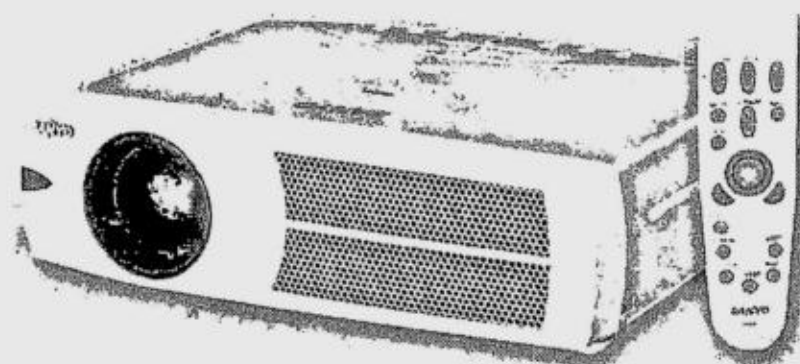
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Mangyan dictionary launched

By Madonna S. Virola
Naujan, Oriental Mindoro

IT WAS a heart-moving reunion on Sept. 28 and 29 for the blue-veiled sisters, the friendly Mangyan people and lay workers at the foot of Mount Halcon in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

The venue was the Tugdaan Mangyan Educational School in Barangay Paitan, home to the tribe of Alangan-Mangyan and part of the historic Paitan Mangyan Reservation Area.

The Mangyan students staged a theatrical play "Sandakot na Lupa," which depicted both painful stories experienced by the natives and their realization that they have rights over their culture and land. This is where they have held hands with the Holy Spirit missionaries through the years.

Dances from the five Mangyan groups were performed, with the accompaniment of indigenous instruments.

The event was highlighted by the launching of the first Mangyan dictionary titled "Kalamay-an—Tipon ng mga Salitang Mangyan-Alangan."

The dictionary is a product of 13 years of living with the Mangyan people by Benjamin Abadiano, formerly Tugdaan Mangyan coordinator and now coordinator of Tabang Mindanaw with the *lumad* (indigenous peoples).

Also presented was a manual for the implementation and management of an educational program for the indigenous people, titled "Bisloyte" (Little Seeds), also written by Abadiano, who helped nurture the Mangyan dreams for a community-based and dynamic education.

This came out after 10 years of labor and has been used with other tribes in the Philippines, particularly the Aeta people of Pampanga and the *lumad* of Mindanao.

"We are very grateful to the Alangan-Mangyan for allowing us to journey with them," said Sister Ancile, mother provincial of the Holy Spirit Sisters.

"You should not feel abandoned when the sisters one day leave you behind for another mission area," remarked Bishop Warlito Cajandig during his homily.

The Mangyan people formed an association called the Samahan ng mga Nagkakaisang Mangyan Alangan Inc. (Sanama Inc.) 15 years ago. The group has been active in spearheading the ethno-linguistic group's struggles and celebrations.

'PANTOMINA'

Love dance of the Bicolanos

By Reynaldo T. Jamoralin
Contributor

With a mere flick of the fingers, twist of the hands and wrists, thrust of the arms, and twirl of the feet, it is love talk all its own. This is the *pantomina*, the Bicolanos' popular, traditional all-occasion dance.

From the smallest *sitios* (sub-village) and barangays of Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay, and Sorsogon, down to the island-provinces of Masbate and Catanduanes, fiesta balls, wedding parties, baptisms, birthdays, graduations, homecomings, reunions, reconciliation, Christmas parties, *Santacruzan* and formal functions—even drinking sessions—can never be complete without the inimitable *pantomina*.

In the olden days, during wedding parties, the newly wedded couple was required to do the *pantomina*, during which cash gifts from relatives, friends and guests were tossed on the dance floor where *buri* mats had been spread to catch the tributes or simply pinned to the bride's *saya* or the groom's *baro*.

Unfortunately, this traditional wedding ritual, meant to "jumpstart" the lifelong partnership of the newlyweds, is no longer practiced today, except in a few remote villages or in traditionally tenacious or tradition-bound family clans in various parts of the region.

'Pantomina sa Tinampo'

But *pantomina* as a dance is as popular as ever in every nook and cranny of Bicol. It is as Bicol as the "Bicol Express," (a hot viand), *pinangat* (Bicolano dish cooked in coconut), *pili*, *Pefiafrancia*, Mayon Volcano and *oragon* (strong).

In fact, it has gained luster and popularity even outside the region when the Kasanggayahan Festival of Sorsogon started featuring it as the street dance during the centennial anniversary of the foundation of the province in October 1994 and every year thereafter.

It was dubbed "Pantomina sa Tinampo" or *pantomina* dancing in the streets. "Tinampo" is Bicol for street.

Thus, during the Kasanggayahan, which falls on the second and third week of the month, people in droves, both young and old, enthusiastically descend upon



"PANTOMINA" street dancing during the Kasanggayahan Festival in Sorsogon City.

TOOTSIE JAMORALIN

on the main streets of Sorsogon City to dance the *pantomina*.

Old folk hastily resurrect their mothballed *baro't saya* for the women, or *barong* for the men, from their musty baul (wooden chest). And they dance in the streets with great abandon.

Many groups or delegations from the different municipalities of the province, or from government offices come with new, colorful native attire and dance a choreographed *pantomina*, complete with measured, precision steps and movements.

Some 20 or so of these groups, composed of 30 to 50 pairs, dance in unison. But the grizzled aficionados from the barangays, in their alcampor-redolent attire, refuse to be intimidated. For them, it is new fangled *pantomina* as they have always danced it through the years—a kind of "maski-paps" (literally, anything goes) or the traditional unchoreographed *pantomina* of old.

'Sinalampati'

Before the coming of the Spanish colonizers, the natives danced the "sinalampati" or "dance of the doves." *Sinalampati* is dove in Bicol.

The dance, which is mimetic much like the "itik-itik" or "tinkling" of the Tagalogs, actually imitates the courtship and lovemaking of doves. Every twist and turn of the head, flick of the hands and fingers, flip of the arms, swing and sway of the hips, gyration, or simply the body language, is actually love talk. Every moment has meanings.

This must have been the reason the Spaniards, when they

first witnessed the graceful dance, re-christened it *pantomina*, or pantomime.

The many different steps of the *pantomina* imitate the different stages of courtship of the doves' cooing and wooing. The forward and backward movements of the male and female dancers at the start of the dance mimic the unique dove-strut at the start of the courtship ritual.

It is a kind of *paso*, with the music going with the pace of the strut. This is the *pagkilala*, or introduction and acquaintanceship.

The male soon dances in circling motions around the female as she plays hard-to-get.

Then comes the *saludo*, in which the male turns around and faces the female as the music abruptly shifts tempo. This signifies acceptance by the female of the love importunings of the male.

This is followed by the *enganyo*, which features intricate foot work, together with the inimitable Bicol *kunday*, where the hands of the upraised arms of both dancers gracefully twist around from the wrists to the fingers. The mere twist to the left or right, at different angles, of the arms, hands and fingers, of the dancers, according to aficionados, have meanings. They are love signals.

'Kunday'

The lovers-dancers actually converse with their wrists and fingers, sway of the hips, slash and twist of the feet, shrug of the shoulders, turn of the head, and gyration of the torso.

It is at this stage of the dance when the male sometimes kneel

in front of his partner while they do the *kunday*, the graceful turning and twirling of the arms, wrists and fingers.

Another variation is the running or chasing movements of the love-struck male as the female mischievously or coquettishly tries to avoid him. To enliven this part of the dance, the male snaps his fingers to the rhythm of the music, imitating the flutter of doves' wings during love-making.

More uninhabited male dancers roll all over the dance floor, no matter if it is earthen and muddled because of the numerous dancing feet, which is usually the case in most barangay fiesta dances. The frenetic rolling every which way is supposed to demonstrate ecstasy and triumph for finally winning the heart of the lovely maiden.

Of course, amply fortified and propelled by the ubiquitous *tuba*, the native coconut wine, which is a staple drink before and after the dance, even more highly spirited dancers, both male and female, create more improvisations and variations, depending on their mood, ecstatic state, or level of intoxication and sobriety.

Pantomina is truly a celebration of love.

'Kasanggayahan'

On Oct. 17, the "Pantomina sa Tinampo" will again be featured during Sorsogon's Kasanggayahan Festival.

Unlike before, the dance will be more free-wheeling and democratic. The dancers, whether individuals or in pairs and groups, may choose to dance the *pantomina* as they please or as they have always danced it in the past, with-

out the measured steps and movements, and in their colorful native attire and choreography.

The streets of Sorsogon City will be open to everybody for the dancing, according to Msgr. Francisco R. Monje, president of the Kasanggayahan Foundation Inc. which organizes and coordinates the festival activities every year with the support of the provincial government.

Expected to join in the festivities this year are the Balik Sorsoganons (returning natives) from different parts of the country and abroad who have been enticed by the Sorsogon Provincial Council, headed by Cecilia H. Duran, to come and visit the Sorsogon of their roots.

This year, the "Pantomina sa Tinampo" is being organized and coordinated by the Sorsogon City government headed by Mayor Sally A. Lee.

The activities include the Pilgrimage and Commemorative Mass on Oct. 13 at Sitio Gibalong, Barangay Siuton, Magallanes, which, according to historical records, is the site of the first mass in Luzon.

On Oct. 14, the 2nd Kasanggayahan Heritage Lectures will be held, with resource persons from the Sorsogon Heritage Society. Dr. Francisco Datar will talk on grassroots anthropology and Dr. Ricardo Nolasco, on Bicol languages and dialects.

On Oct. 16, an investment forum for Balik Sorsoganons will be held. A historico-cultural parade featuring street dancing groups from the different towns of Sorsogon, as well as festival dancers from other Bicol provinces, will also take place that day.

Mindoro villagers interact with 134 green sea turtles

By Madonna Virola
Roxas, Oriental Mindoro

IT WAS so much fun. It seemed that they knew where the sea was. Even when we let them face the mountain, they still turned toward the sea. They marched to the sea in a straight line and looked like they were following a leader."

Ditay Zamboanga was recalling the day she and other residents of Sitio Tikling, Barangay Isidro in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, summoned their energies and led 134 *pawikan* (green sea turtles) at 9 a.m. of Sept. 22 to their natural habitat.

It was sunrise of July 14, Barangay Election Day, when three playing children noticed the prints left on the sand by a *pawikan*. The marks led them to the 40-kilo Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) which was lost in a fishpond that was blocked from the sea by tall rice paddies. It took four men to bring the creature back to the sea.

The residents, who had earlier organized themselves into the Bulurang Lakas Mangingisda (BLM), searched for the turtle's breeding sanctuary in the sandy area and found small and white eggs the size of ping-pong balls. They did not touch the eggs and

decided to allow them to hatch and release the young in due time.

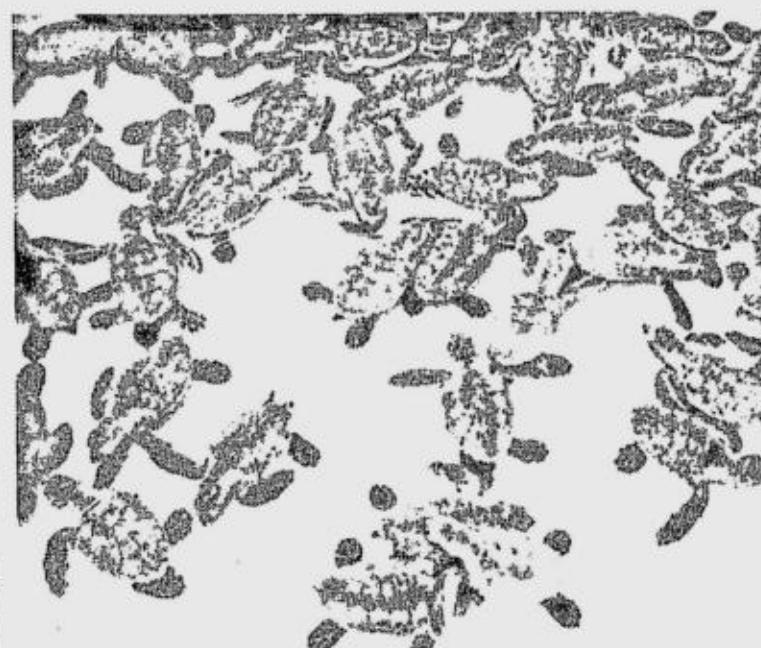
"Before, when the residents saw *pawikan* eggs, they immediately divided them among themselves to cook. They even butchered the mother turtle," revealed BLM president Emy Paylago in Filipino.

Paylago said the giant turtles had been coming to the village almost every year since 1970. "That was why the residents were used to eating their meat," he explained.

Two years ago, 250 turtle eggs were found and divided among five families. But on July 14, the residents chose not to eat the gentle creature.

NGO program

"Because of the community-based coastal resource management program introduced by Kefcode and Pilipinas Shell Foundation, we were able to understand the need to protect the *pawikan*



OLIVER ridley hatchlings head for the sea in Oriental Mindoro. DONNA VIROLA

and let them live," said BLM members Donard Dado and Julio Manoy. Kefcode or the Kaunsayan Formation for Community Development is a 13-year-old non-government organization that is actively operating in the second district of Oriental Mindoro.

"We are very happy that the community we have organized has concretely learned to take care of this rare turtle species," said Kefcode executive director Doris Melgar.

Based on pictures of the turtles, Melissa Endangan, Forester I of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, identified them as of the Olive ridley turtle species.

The Olive ridley is among five sea turtle species that are known to be found in the Philippines, particularly in the western coast of Luzon, according to information provided by www.oneocean.org.

The turtle's carapace is "nearly

round and highly domed, and uniform olive green in adults, and dark gray or black in hatchlings," the website said.

Village action

Melgar said the residents of Barangay Sumagi in Bansud town were advised to just allow the *pawikan* eggs to hatch and the baby turtles to go to the sea.

The residents found about 200 eggs in the sandy area. They secured the place with a plastic screen as fence and another as cover.

Funds were allocated by the barangay council led by its chair, Rosie Candido.

Members of the Barangay Fisheries Aquatic Resource Management Council, which was organized by the government in compliance with provisions of the Fisheries Code (Republic Act No. 8559), have also been guarding the surroundings, particularly the sea. The council is headed by Fresco Palla.

For 60 days, the residents took care of the eggs, which were kept buried in the sand. At 6 a.m. of Sept. 14, the eggs finally hatched. Also on that day, the mother *pawikan* came and guarded the hatchlings.

"We took care of the baby *pawikan* for a week until they

were strong enough to be freed to the sea. We were cautious then that some birds, sea snakes and even their mother might eat them," said Kefcode training officer Neri Fontanilla.

Dangers

"No wonder there are only a few *pawikan* left because very few survive the dangers that await them," she noted.

The residents of Sitio Tikling felt happy about their first and unique experiences. "We felt that we had visitors that we took care of and the time came when they had to leave," said Lorna Paylago, another BLM member. "Of course, we feel sad because they were under our care inside a basin for a week, and almost every day people would visit them. Now, they are gone."

"We hope that they will survive because of the people who care for our environment," said Picoy Falla, an active member of the BLM. "And hopefully, we will again be visited by a *pawikan*."

The turtles were released into the sea by the people without informing local DENR officials. Two turtles, which were left to the care of one of the residents, will be turned over to DENR for proper identification.

Police have no basis to pin down Jordanian

From page A1

South for the past four months, that he had been "advocating peace throughout (his) stay in the Philippines for the past 18 years," and that as a husband and father of nine children, "in no way would (he) let the life of (his) family be at risk by doing such a thing or even thinking of it."

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the military should speed up its investigation and decide whether to file criminal charges against al Ghaffari. She said he could be deported next week if there was no case to hold him here.

Domingo has denied al Ghaffari's request for voluntary departure, saying she would have to first seek the military's comment on the matter.

Al Ghaffari is being held at the BI detention center in Intramuros, Manila. He is scheduled to be moved to the bureau's Bicutan jail this weekend.

But the sources could not confirm that al Ghaffari, who is married to a Filipino, had a hand in the bomb attack that PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. had earlier attributed to the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have no information on his connection to the Zamboanga blast," said a source. The other said: "We could not validate that."

One of the sources also said al Ghaffari was not connected to the Abu Sayyaf or to the Jemaah Islamiyah, a militant group based in Indonesia believed to have links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The sources also said al Ghaffari, whom authorities had identified as a member of the Palestinian militant group Hamas and a friend of Jamal Khalifa, a brother-in-law of Bin Laden, had no history of terrorist acts in the Philippines.



AL GHAFFARI, a Philippine resident for 18 years, an economist who's married to a Filipina with whom he has nine children.

But they admitted that authorities had been closely monitoring al Ghaffari for his supposed links to Khalifa, who financially supported the Jordanian's Islamic Wisdom Worldwide Mission (IWWM), a humanitarian group supporting Muslims, in the past. The support has long been cut off, one of the sources said.

"You know, Khalifa—he was good at donating money to organizations for his own end," added the other.

The sources could not say if the IWWM had been used as a front for terrorist activities.

Retired PNP Deputy Director General Rex Piad categorically denied allegations about the group that he described as a religious organization committed to the "spread of Islam."

"It's not engaged in financing any terrorist group," Piad said in a phone interview. "If there is, we would be the first to do something about it."

Piad also said he and retired generals Enrique Cuadra and Percival Adiong remained IWWM board members.

Paper work

Al Ghaffari, an economist, said the visa he was holding was valid up to May 25. He said he applied for a visa renewal or extension on April 23 but that he received a notice of denial on Aug. 1 on the grounds that he did not appear before the hearing officer, a certain Attorney Caluya.

"On the contrary, I appeared before (Caluya) with complete original papers, a copy of which was submitted to the BI," al Ghaffari said.

He said that on the "Thursday in the last week of May," Caluya examined the papers, interviewed him and his wife and then required him to get a clearance from the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) "as a new requirement of the honorable commissioner."

Al Ghaffari said he applied for the clearance the following day at the BI, "because this (process) is an agency-to-agency transaction." He said that after waiting for some time, he was informed by the Nica derogatory record section managed by a Doctor Almaden that his clearance had been released.

"And he signed my papers, certified and verified from the original with stamp and signature," al Ghaffari said, adding:

"On Aug. 2, I received a notice from the BI indicating a denial of my visa extension dated June 27 and indicating further that I have to leave the country within five days upon receiving the notice."

"So immediately I filed a motion for reconsideration appealing to the commissioner to consider my motion on Aug. 5 before the lapse of the 5-day period. Until this moment I'm waiting for the decision of the honorable commissioner for me to abide with."

Piad said he had endorsed al Ghaffari to the Nica for investigation but could not recall when.

"He sought my assistance after agents in civilian clothes raided his office," Piad said. "So I endorsed him to the Nica for investigation. Three officers then came to my office and interrogated him."

Piad could not say whether the Nica cleared al Ghaffari.

Exaggeration

The Jordanian government dismissed as an exaggeration the reports linking al Ghaffari to the al-Qaida network and to the bomb attack in Zamboanga.

Samir Naouri, Jordan's ambassador to Tokyo, confirmed that al Ghaffari was a Jordanian, and said he was a legitimate businessman in the Philippines with a Filipino wife.

The Jordanian embassy in Tokyo has jurisdiction over its nationals in the Philippines.

Naouri said the embassy had been told nothing about al Ghaffari's suspected terrorist connections. "All we were told was about his being arrested for illegally staying in the Philippines," the envoy said.

The US Embassy withheld comment on al Ghaffari's arrest.

"We don't have any official word on that right now," said embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley when asked whether the US government saw the arrest as a breakthrough in the investigation of the bomb attack.

The police intelligence sources confirmed that al Ghaffari had connections with one of six suspected terrorists arrested in a raid by the military and police on the Madrasah Islamic School in Pangasinan in May. They were referring to Dawud Muslim del Rosario Santos, head of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement that ran the school.

The raiders seized assorted

firearms, military paraphernalia and documents.

Al Ghaffari has written a letter to the BI denying any link with any terrorist group and saying he was ready to leave if it would let him.

Domingo said al Ghaffari had

bought a plane ticket and could have left today.

"We cannot let him go," she said. "The board has scheduled deportation proceedings against him next week." With reports from *Blanche S. Rivera* and *Norman Bordadora*

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(2) Polyethylene Crosslinked Pipe (PE-X Pipe)

(3) Polypropylene-Random Copolymer Pipe (PP-RC)

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1"	(1.1) P/ 103.00 (1.2) P/ 103.00 25 mm Ø x 2.5 mm thick	P/ 84.00 25 mm Ø x 3.5 mm thick	P/ 85.00 32 mm Ø x 5.4 mm thick
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95% reject talks with Reds—GMA

From page A1

poverty and social injustice.

"There can be no peace agreement with communist leader Jose Ma. Sison because he is actually fighting for communism," said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, former chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Biazon said Sison and his communist group in Utrecht, The Netherlands, were fighting for a cause different from the reasons that the NPA rebels in the hills were fighting for.

Biazon said Sison and company were just using social issues like poverty and non-delivery of basic services as an excuse for pushing for the communist ideology.

"Joma Sison is obsessed with overthrowing the government through revolution and installing communism as the political and economic structure in the Philippines. And, if this is not possible, achieve a sharing of power in government," Biazon said.

The senator pointed out that the peace talks with past administrations did not proceed be-

cause of unresolved issues like ceasefire, security and immunity guarantees and human rights and international humanitarian law.

"Whenever the talks were to begin to discuss the more substantive agenda of political, economic, social and even constitutional reforms, the talks would bog down because of accusations of ceasefire violations or violations of human rights, which were triggered by NPA activities on the ground," Biazon said.

The NPA has recently stepped up attacks on police and military installations. The AFP and Philippine National Police have responded by launching Operation Gordian Knot, which is aimed at wiping out the NPA.

Hawks and doves

An administration source earlier said that members of the Cabinet were divided between "hawks," or those who want to completely junk the negotiations, and "doves," who are advocating continued talks with the rebels.

National Security Adviser Roldo Golez previously admitted that there was an "internal debate" going on in the Cabinet regarding the fate of the talks.

In an interview yesterday over radio dzRB, government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III said that his panel was awaiting word from the President whether she approved of the draft of a proposed "final peace agreement" that the panel earlier submitted to Malacañang.

"We don't know if it has been submitted already to President Macapagal," Bello said.

He said that only upon the President's approval of the draft agreement would the panel undertake back-channel talks with NDF leaders. The draft is currently under review by the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security.

In her prepared speech before the Focap, Ms Macapagal noted that her government's "efforts at modern democratic governance have been undermined by a climate of incessant conflict."

"Our determination to bring

progress to our nation has been tested by fanatical armed groups who find every ideological excuse to block development," the President said. "These include the terrorists in the radical Left who have lost all moral force to lead any revolution for the poor."

Responding to reporters' questions, the President said that her government was implementing a "military component" to address the insurgency.

"But on the other side, there is the continuing battle for the hearts and mind. We targeted maybe 500 NPA barangays during the first half of this year not only for military operations but also for community development," Ms Macapagal said.

The President noted that candidates allegedly fielded by rebels for elective positions in most of these barangays lost to government candidates.

"So this makes us even more convinced that when you are going to fight terrorism or insurgency, you have to wage military offensives and address the problem of poverty," she said.



WHEN Ate Glo meets Ate Vi, they are bound to hit it off right. And they do during the President's visit to the Lipa Export Processing Zone in Lipa, Batangas, where Vilma Santos is mayor. EDWIN BACASMAS

Gloria talks of politics...

From page A1

the administration had suspended. She then said she had two more questions but would settle for just one.

"I'm sure that a lot of women are trying to ask you this question. And since you are not a widow, they would like to ask you this question," Robles said. "You don't have to answer it, Madame President, but I think a lot of women would like to ask: Do you still have sex?"

As the audience roared with laughter, the 55-year-old mother of three smiled shyly and, after a moment's pause, replied: "Plenty."

More laughter from the audience, at which the President's smile widened and she said: "That's going to be the headline."

"Please make foreign policy the headline," she pleaded good-naturedly to the media members present, referring to the speech she delivered prior to the open forum.

The President let the laughter go on for a few more seconds, and then she was all business when the next Focap member asked about the effect of her anti-terrorism drive in Mindanao on Muslim countries.

Some reporters covering Malacañang, especially the veterans on the beat, expressed shock that such a question was posed to Ms Macapagal. They noted that not even deposed President Joseph Estrada was asked point-blank about his sex life at the height of the scandal about his numerous mistresses.

But Ms Macapagal appeared more annoyed at persistent questions about her plans for 2004 than at the question about her sex life.

Thankful

The President was her non-committal self on the subject of her political plans.

She asserted that her "primary focus is on governance," but she also said that "if the politicians are preparing for 2004, I thank them."

"As Butch Abad said last night, politicians will be committing suicide if they are not prepared," she said.

She was referring to Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, who, as president of the Liberal Party, pledged all-out support for her when new party officials were sworn in Tuesday.

Ms Macapagal is the honorary chair of LP, the political party of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

But while she was pleasant toward Abad, she was hardly that toward Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, another key ally who is also a member of her Cabinet.

At first, the President acknowledged Alvarez's presence at the luncheon. But she also said: "I am not acknowledging any other members of the Cabinet because I tell them they should not make a

habit to follow me all the time wherever I go."

Alvarez is the newly designated spokesperson of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, of which the President and De Venecia are co-chairs.

Before she took note of Alvarez, Ms Macapagal acknowledged the presence of De Venecia, and even invited him to join her at her table.

She also said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was not present because he was defending his department's 2003 budget before Congress.

Fatalistic

In the open forum, the President fended off persistent questions about her political plans.

"Politically, I am fatalistic," she said. "I think the presidency is made in heaven, and that's up to God."

She said she had her work cut out for the next six months, in the form of boosting the domestic economy, reinvigorating tourism and decongesting traffic in Metro Manila.

Asked when she would make known her plans for 2004, she said: "I don't know."

"The Lord's timing is always perfect, so I leave it up to Him. I don't spend my time introspecting about 2004."

The President also said she did not intend to convince her critics and the public in general that she was not casting a moist eye on 2004.

"I don't have to convince anybody, I just have to convince myself," she declared. "I know myself. And if my opponents think that I am thinking of 2004, that's their problem because they are always thinking of 2004."

She also indicated that she was not worried about the drop in her public approval rating.

In its last survey, the Social Weather Stations said the President's net approval rating went down from a previous level of 28 to 18, or a slide of 10 points.

The President said the "contextual reason" for the drop might have been the new Abu Sayyaf hostage taking and the controversy over the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"So it rises and falls depending on what the issue is," she said. "As a public servant, it is good for me to look at the reason behind any rise and fall, but that is supposed to be so it would guide in my policy."

At one point, Ms Macapagal appeared exasperated by the persistent questions about her political plans.

"No matter how you re-do the question, my answers are the same," she said. "My political fate is in the hands of God whose timing is perfect, who loves me and each one of us." With a report from Reuters

Gov't troops overran NPA jungle camp in Quezon

THE MILITARY overran a communist rebel camp, capturing an arms cache and seizing explosives intended for possible rebel sabotage in two separate incidents, officials said yesterday.

Army Special Forces were tipped off by villagers to the presence of the New People's Army (NPA) camp near the town of Santa Catalina in Quezon on Monday. A clash was averted after the guerrillas fled when they spotted the 21-man government team approaching.

The camp consisted of at least three huts surrounded by foxholes and a perimeter fence.

Homemade shotguns, revolvers, ammunition, medical equipment and documents were recovered, the military said.

In Balaban town in Kalinga, soldiers on Saturday seized 260 pieces of C-4 explosives that were allegedly being transported to the NPA for sabotage activities, the local Army commander said.

The explosives, hidden in cardboard boxes, were being transported aboard a commuter mini-bus when it was stopped at a military checkpoint, Lt. Col. Ted Torralba said. That same day, soldiers recovered 45 blast- ing caps and a .38 cal. revolver

from two men, Roberto Manadao and Reynaldo Bula-ay.

Torralba said civilian informers tipped them off about the explosives. The driver of the mini-bus was questioned over the cargo but was later released.

The mini-bus driver told the soldiers that the boxes were being delivered to a certain Roberto Tangdol, who the military identified as an NPA sympathizer.

Military officials said the explosives could have been used to blow up bridges, hydroelectric dams and government installations.

The NPA has recently stepped up attacks on civilian targets, burning cell phone relay stations and construction equipment, and raiding police stations in rural areas. The 10,000-strong guerrilla force is the military wing of the communist party which has been waging a 33-year insurgency against the government.

In Capalonga, Camarines Norte, the military said it was able to capture a suspected NPA member, Martin Acayin, after a firefight on Oct. 5. The military also reported the recovery of an M-16 from the suspected rebel. Reports from AFP and Martin P. Marfil

One dog missing, 2 found: Blame politics

From page A1

separate press conferences yesterday. Because politics has gone to the dogs.

The bomb-sniffing dog of the Caloocan City Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) bomb squad that strayed from her leash last week has been found.

"PO2 Sarah," a 2-year-old brown Belgian Malinois said to be worth P1 million, could not be found after it was left unattended by junior police members last week at the K-9 training center in Bagumbong, Caloocan.

Sarah is used to secure populous areas such as shopping malls and the Light Rail Transit stations.

2 press conferences

Amused but confused, the media attended the press conferences held at the Caloocan Police Station on Samson Road and at the Northern Police District on Tanigue Street in Kaunlaran Village.

Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, sta-

tion intelligence and investigation chief and who is politically affiliated with Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo, together with K-9 handler-owner Jojo Rodis, presented the missing female police dog to reporters and photographers. They did so on behalf of Malonzo at the Caloocan City Police station at around 1 p.m.

Malonzo's rival

An hour later, Malonzo's political rival, Rep. Edgar Erice, together with National Police District chief Senior Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. presented a smaller, leaner and cleaner version of the alleged missing canine at the Northern Police District office.

The city's second district representative's take on the story was that Sarah was turned over to him by a certain Joel dela Cruz, who claimed that it was his brother Rogelio, 36, of Sagumbong, who found the missing canine.

The story of Malonzo's allies

was that Sarah, who bore several mosquito bites and scratches all over the body, was found by a certain Ding Librado, a Caloocan City Hall's Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management employee, near the K-9 training center wandering in a grassy area last week.

Borromeo said Librado heard a report over dzRH regarding the missing police dog and that a reward was offered for its recovery. Librado turned the dog over to the police yesterday morning.

The missing dog was returned following newspaper reports on Tuesday about its loss. Rodis had earlier offered a P6,000 to P10,000 reward for the return of Sarah.

Thunder-like gunshots

Rodis, a 10-year veteran in K-9 handling, said trained dogs turn to the forests or grassy areas when lost. He explained that on the day Sarah disappeared there was a thunderstorm. Having been trained to react fast to gunshots she may have slipped away

to search for the source of the sound of thunder.

Instead of getting his reward, Librado, a computer sales agent, instead asked Rodis to buy a computer from him worth P8,000 to which Rodis readily agreed.

Eric also reportedly promised to give Dela Cruz a reward.

However, Erice said that should Rodis or the SWAT refuse to claim or recognize his dog as Sarah, he would still donate it to the NPDO.

"Based on the news reports, this is indeed the missing dog," said Erice who also promised to shoulder the maintenance costs of the dog.

Franco welcomed Erice's offer adding that they would hire a dog trainer for "Sarah," which he said would become an invaluable member of the police force.

"This is indeed a blessing to the NPDO, we are glad that two dogs came out. But should the rightful owner come up, we will give it back," Franco said.

But which is the real PO2 Sarah? Tina Santos

Bush ...

From page A1

The next Balikatan will be held from August to October next year at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, the traditional camping ground.

The President said the exercise would cover helicopter night-flying, intelligence fusion and the training of Light Infantry Battalion and Light Reaction Companies.

She said the extension phase of the Balikatan 02-1 exercise in Basilan and Zamboanga—called "Bayanihan"—would last only until the end of the year.

Bayanihan, in which US Sgt. Mark Jackson, one of the three fatalities in the Oct. 2 bomb attack in Zamboanga City, was involved, is focused on socioeconomic projects.

"The Bayanihan assistance that runs from Aug. 1 to Dec. 31 this year aims to improve socio-economic conditions in Basilan and Zamboanga," Ms Macapagal said. "This entails \$2 million for the construction of hospitals, medical clinics, school buildings, water wells and water treatment facility."

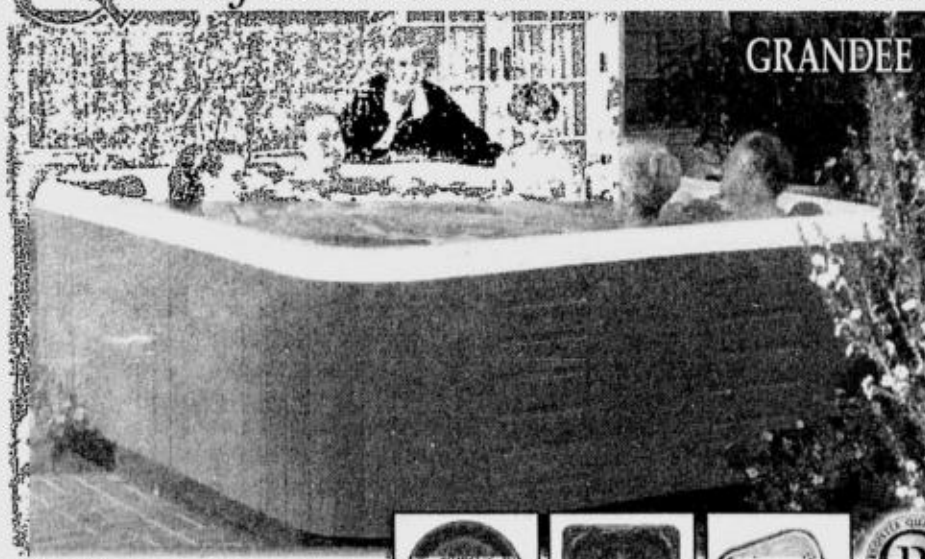
Despite the recent bomb attack, which was blamed on the Abu Sayyaf, the President maintained that the bandit group had been decimated "because the most notorious of them is gone."

She was referring to Abu Sabaya, spokesperson of the Abu Sayyaf, who was supposedly killed in a clash with military troops last July.

"I would call these actions their death throes," the President stressed.

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SPORTS

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ASIAN GAMES

Another medal-less day for RP; 2 more pugs lose

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—Medal-less was the Philippines for the second straight day yesterday even as two of the country's remaining three boxers were knocked out in the 14th Asian Games here.

The Philippines also concluded its bowling campaign on a sad note as it missed gold medals in both the men's and women's Masters finals, and Filipino officials found themselves switching their sights on medal-rich taekwondo and wushu starting today.

Hong Sung-chun, the Korean architect in RP's resurgence in taekwondo that saw the country miss a medal in the Sydney Olympics, has predicted that the Filipino jins will be "12-for-12" in the Games.

Sydney Olympians Eva Marie Ditan and Roberto Cruz will spearhead today's campaign in taekwondo in the company of Alexander Briones, with three gold medals up for grabs.

Cruz, a six-time Southeast Asian Games finweight champion, battles Tajikistan's M. Doboiev while Ditan, a World Cup bronze medalist, faces Bhuta's K. Bidha.

Rookie Briones, who drew a bye in the first round, will meet the winner of a lightweight clash between a Nepalese and an Afghan.

In athletics, Ernie Candelario was eighth and last with a time of 46.95 in the 400-m run finals won by Kuwait's Fawzi Al Sham-mari, whose clocking of 44.95 surprisingly beat the heavily favored bet from China and Japan.

Twelve days into the Games, the Filipinos found themselves with only two gold medals to show coming from billiards and bowling with one apiece.

The other medals were 3 silvers (1 from billiards and two

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

from bowling) and 6 bronzes, courtesy of shooting with 2, and 1 each from billiards, bowling, rowing and golf.

Yesterday, the country failed to cash in on the last two gold medals staked in bowling when the women's team of Liza Clutario and Liza del Rosario bowed out in the Masters finals.

And boxers Maraon Golez and Anthony Igusquiza were dismissed in bizarre abbreviated matches that left only one pug carrying the fight for Philippine boxing.

"Wala pa rin tayong suwerte (We are still hounded by bad breaks)," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines. "But the boys sacrificed a lot and even in defeat, I have to give it to them."

Middleweight Golez was knocked out by his Pakistani opponent, Ahmed Ali Khan, with a left hook to the face with 10 seconds to go in the first round in this his first Asiad stint.

The 21-year-old, 5-foot-11 from Mandaue, Cebu, his eyes still glazed despite beating the count of 10, was declared loser by knockout.

Lightweight Igusquiza, a 26-year-old veteran from Malinao, Aklan, dropped his bout by RSC

(referee-stopped-contest) when he trailed his opponent from Uzbekistan, Mahmudov Dilshov, by 15 points in the third round.

Only lightflyweight Harry Tanamor was left carrying the load for Philippine boxing after Romeo Brin, Roel Laguna, Freddie Gamo, Christopher Camat and Violito Payla had also dropped their bids for glory.

The 24-year-old Tanamor, from Zamboanga City, is already assured of the bronze medal. He will be assured of the silver if he beats his Thai opponent on Oct. 12.

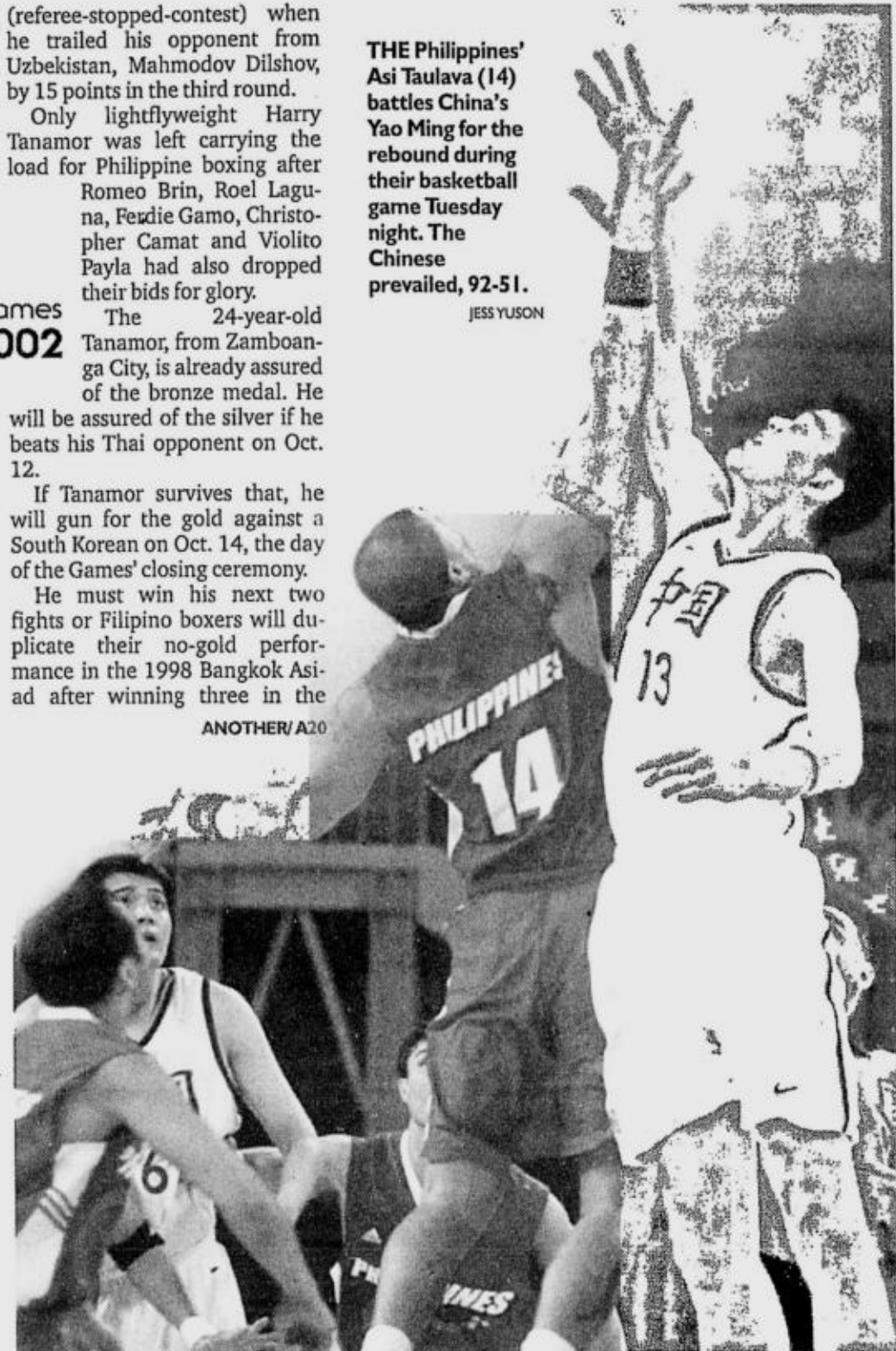
If Tanamor survives that, he will gun for the gold against a South Korean on Oct. 14, the day of the Games' closing ceremony.

He must win his next two fights or Filipino boxers will duplicate their no-gold performance in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad after winning three in the

ANOTHER/A20

THE Philippines' Asi Taulava (14) battles China's Yao Ming for the rebound during their basketball game Tuesday night. The Chinese prevailed, 92-51.

JESS YUSON



Intimidation kills everybody

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The good thing about Jong Uichico is he knows the difference between illusion and reality, fiction and fact.

"We had the illusion of beating China after we saw New Zealand beat China in the World Championship in Indianapolis," said Uichico after China routed the Philippines, 92-51, Tuesday night in the Asian Games here.

"The difference was if you watched that game, New Zealand shot very well while we didn't shoot well tonight."

I have two reasons for the Filipinos' poor shooting—or non-shooting.

One, they were hesitant to shoot. They allowed themselves to be intimidated. It was as if they were playing against aliens. Extra-terrestrials, if you wish. Fear gripped them just at the mere sight of the Chinese.

Two, when they did shoot, they were tentative. Terribly hesitant. Will you tell your would-be victim you're going to shoot him before you shoot him?

Against China, you've got to think evil, play beast-like. Alas, the Filipinos weren't murderous this particular evening; they played dead at the bark of the gun.

"Yao Ming is 7-foot-5 and ours is 6-foot-9," said Uichico. "If you get intimidated, you're lost from the start of the game."

Intimidation kills everybody. You get intimidated by the powerful, you lose even before you start firing your gun.

New Zealand beat China in Indianapolis because the New Zealanders felt the Chinese could be beaten. The 7-foot-5 Yao Ming and the 7-foot-2 Menk Batere did not intimidate them.

They intimidated us. Or, better yet, the Filipinos allowed themselves to be intimidated. Which accounted for the five shot-blocks Yao scored against us.

"You have to shoot extremely well to beat China," said Uichico.

I can believe that. But we didn't even shoot well and so, how could we even entertain the illusion of a victory?

"We were defending very well but we couldn't score," he said.

I can believe that. But what's the use of having a good defense when you can't have a good offense? What we had, alas, was an offense as offensive as the odor of the smoke billowing out of Smokey Mountain. And that's because our offense Tuesday night was gripped by fear almost all throughout the game.

No offense meant.

2002 Busan Asian Games

DREAM 4 GOLD



Bodybuilding out, chess in

BUSAN, South Korea—Qatar, host for the 2006 Asian Games, wants chess added to the two-week event and bodybuilding and several other sports dropped.

The desert nation with no rivers also wants to exclude rowing and canoeing, Wei Zhihong, the sports committee chief of Asia's sports governing body, said Wednesday.

Qatar's proposal for events at Doha also excludes baseball, which may be dropped from the Olympics.

The Islamic nation also excluded bodybuilding, which debuted at the Asian version of the Olympics this year, citing religious reasons, Wei said.

"Nothing has been decided. We need to decide two years before the opening, so we have enough time," he said.

The council and separate sports federations are discussing the matter.

Japanese baseball legend Shigeo Nagashima visited Sajik stadium to watch the semifinals and finals of the Asian Games tournament. Nagashima, who played third base when the Yomiuri Giants won nine straight championships in the 1960s, is the most popular sports figure in Japan and is commonly referred to as Mister Giants or simply Mister.

Nagashima retired as Giants manager after the 2001 season after leading the Giants to five Japan Series championships in 1976, 1977, 1994, 1996 and 2000.

"We have a lot of homework to do," Nagashima said after Japan's 6-5 loss to Taiwan in the semifinals. "We weren't able to hold the one-run lead and that exposed the weakness of our pitchers."

Houston Rockets center Yao Ming and Menke Bateer of the San Antonio Spurs are playing only about half a game each for China at the Asian Games. Both players are scheduled to go to their National Basketball Association teams after the tournament ends Sunday. Yao has averaged 14.2 points and Bateer 7.6 points as the Chinese men have beaten five Asian opponents by nearly 50 points per game. Yao has 21 blocked shots and grabbed 53 rebounds.

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Cagers watch Sokors rip Kazakhs

GAMES OCT. 12
3 p.m.-RP vs South Korea
7 p.m.-China vs Kazakhstan

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The morning after they were crushed by China, the Filipinos went back to the scene of battle not to grieve over the ruins of a 92-51 thrashing Tuesday night.

They came back to sit at ringside, their eyes glued on the South Koreans.

"We need to study the Koreans very, very well," said Jong Uichico, head coach of the Philippine basketball team. "We have to continue dreaming."

They watched the Koreans steamroller Kazakhstan, 114-98, as the

1998 runners-up swept the three-game side to arrange the knockout match against the Philippines on Saturday.

"China is tough inside and South Korea is tough outside," said Uichico. "We have to stop the perimeter shooting of the Koreans if we intend to beat them."

The RP-Korea clash does not happen until Saturday (Oct. 12) and Uichico will use the two-day break to prepare the game plan against the Koreans.

In case the improbable happens and the Philippines beats South Korea, the Filipinos will still barge into



Basketball

the battle for the gold against sure-finalist China.

Otherwise, the Filipinos will take on Kazakhstan on Sunday for the bronze medal in a return bout of their third-place battle in Bangkok four years ago.

Jojo Lastimosa starred in that game as the then RP Centennial Team coached by Tim Cone improved on the fourth-place finish of the Filipinos in 1994 in Hiroshima.

A team coached by Robert Jaworski finished second behind China in the 1990 Beijing Asiad, the year the country started employing PBA players in the quadrennial Games.

Cruz, Ditan start taekwondo campaign

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Hong Sung Chun, the Korean vice president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association got what he wanted—a favorable draw for the Filipino jins.

Now, Hong wants them to go all out and make his bold prediction of medals for all 12 of them come true.

Sydney Olympians Roberto Cruz and Eva Marie Ditan and rookie

Alexander Briones will be the first to carry on the mission today at the Gudeok Stadium.

Cruz, a six-time Southeast Asian Games champion and once ranked world No. 1 in the finweight class, faces Tajikistan's M. Deboiev, while Ditan, also a finweight who copped the bronze medal in the World Cup in Tokyo two months ago, battles Bhutan's K. Bidha.

Briones, a lightweight who drew a

first round bye, will tangle with the winner of the Nepal-Afghanistan tussle.

"Many of us should go to the semifinals. The only problem is we could be facing Koreans there," said coach Noli Gabriel.

If Ditan advances, she'll be up against the winner between China and Indonesia. "Medyo mahirap lang dito dahil malaki 'yong Chinese, si Wang Ying. She's a six-footer while Ditan is only around 5-3," said Gabriel.

RP cyclists still competitive—Lina

DESPITE the failure of the Philippine cycling team to create a ripple in the ongoing 14th Asian Games, the discipline's biggest fan still believes the local riders possess the talent to match up against the best of the world.

And for Airfreight 2100 Inc. chair Bert Lina, cycling's new godfather, it would only be a matter of time before it could happen.

"Our riders have not figured in the medal race, but in time we know that we will be able to compete gamely

against the best of Asia, if not the rest of the world," said Lina, who handed out cycling apparel and a \$500 dole-out before the national riders left for the Asiad.

Lina, along with Airfreight 2100 president Lito Alvarez and Express Tour executive director Mar Mendoza, put the fabled tour back into the limelight last summer with a four-day tour at the Calabarzon growth area.

In April next year, Air21 will embark on a 14-stage cycling escapade

kicking off in the Bicol region up to the tip of Ilocos before ending the adventure in Metro Manila.

A series of qualifying races are on tap beginning Nov. 10 designed to funnel out the best 84 riders in the land.

Application forms are available at the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City.

Deadline for registration is Oct. 31. Interested parties may call PCAP president Paquito Rivas or Nel at 879-4374.

Buenavista takes crack at 5,000m

By Roy Luarda

BUSAN, South Korea—Eduardo Buenavista now knows the quality of competition in the Asian Games is higher than the Asian Athletic Association Championships and the Asian Grand Prix, where he has excelled.

The 5-foot track marvel from Banga, South Cotabato, will have to come up with something better today if he wishes to salvage a medal for the Philippines in the 5,000-meter run of the athletics competitions of the 14th Asian Games at the Asiad Main Stadium here.

Last Sunday, Buenavista ran a torrid pace yet landed only seventh in the 10,000m. He actually broke the 22-year-old Philippine mark of his coach, Mario Castro, then and even surpassed the Southeast Asian Games record when he went under 30 seconds, the first Filipino to do so.

Buenavista said he lost his

rhythm and timing in the 10,000m when the Qatari entry nudged him from behind.

He clarified, however, that even if the incident didn't occur, he still would have lost as at least three runners went below 29 seconds.

In today's 5,000m, Buenavista will again aim to break his national mark of 8:17.14 while hoping that his rivals do not approximate the meet record.

"That's the only way he (Buenavista) could be in contention for the bronze medal," said Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok.

Also seeing action is high jumper Sean Guevarra.

Filipino Ernie Candelario finished eighth and last in the 400m final yesterday with his clocking of 46.95 seconds. Kuwait's Fawzi Al Shammari topped the event in 44.95, tying the Asiad standard.

"That time is really beyond Ernie's reach," admitted Go.



Athletics

Coach picks Malalad

BUSAN, South Korea—Good for the gold.

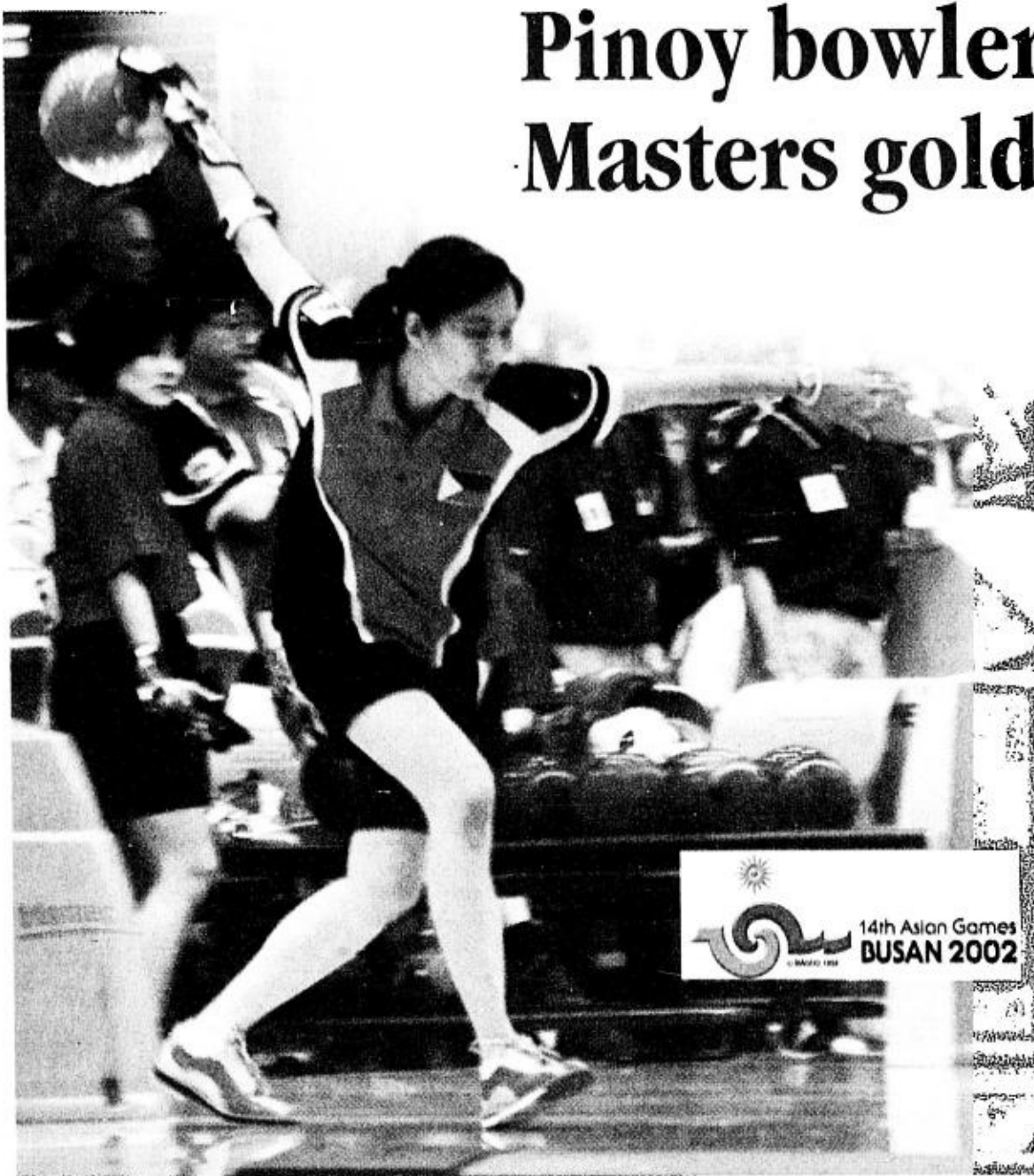
Karate coach David Lay yesterday predicted a "possible gold finish by Gretchen (Malalad)" in the 14th Asian Games here.

Lay's confidence on Malalad, a 22-year-old, 5-foot-6 charmer with the looks of a commercial model, bringing home the gold medal grew after Tuesday's draw which put the

Filipina in a lighter bracket in the women's kumite 60-kilogram class where there are only seven entries.

"Her toughest rival in her bracket is Malaysian Premila Subramanian, but Gretchen has the edge," said Lay, winner of one of the country's two bronzes in karatedo during the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games.

Roy Luarda



RP lady bowler Irene Benitez in action.

Another medal-less day for RP

From page A19

1994 Hiroshima Asiad.

Clutario, the singles bronze medalist, finished fifth in the 8-game second block and Del Rosario ninth, missing any of the three slots for the finals set in the afternoon.

The men's bowling team of Biboy Rivera and Chester King also missed advancing to the Masters finals when they finished seventh and 10th, respectively, among the 16 semifinalists.

"We didn't get the breaks this time," said Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress. "But we closed out

our campaign on the humble production of one gold, two silvers and one bronze."

Those four medals were the most by any sport so far in the 32 disciplines the country has entered into in the 16-day, 44-nation Games.

Archers Marvin Cordero and Christian Cubilla lost to Japan's Hiroshi Yamamoto by a point (167-166) while Cubilla absorbed a 165-160 loss to Myanmar's Yan Aung Soe in the second round of the men's individual Olympic Round event.

Sailing's Lealyn Taruja finished

eighth after the final two races of the girls' Optimist class.

The RP cagers went back to the gym yesterday to watch from ringside South Korea demolish Kazakhstan, 114-98.

Jong Uichico's boys hope to parlay the trip into a victory on Saturday over the South Koreans to arrange a return bout with China for the gold on Monday.

Should they lose to South Korea, the Filipinos will face Kazakhstan for the battle of the bronze, the same medal won by the cagers in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The men's and women's teams failed in their respective bids for medals in the Masters yesterday in the 14th Asian Games at the Homeplus Asiad Bowling Alley here.

The suspense heightened on Tuesday when Liza Clutario, the bronze medalist in the women's singles, ranked third after the first block, with Biboy Rivera finishing fifth (3563) in men's play.

Only the Top 3 from the 16 qualifiers advanced to the finals yesterday after two blocks of eight games each played Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Clutario failed to sustain her run and finished fifth after two days with 3471. Liza del Rosario was ninth with 3377 in the women's division topped by Malaysia's Shalin Zulkifli (3612).

The other Filipino in the men's Masters, Chester King, wound up 10th with 3506, with Singapore's Remy Ong, a triple gold medalist, emerging winner after a 3749.

"It's okay," said Steve Hontiveros, president of the Philippine Bowling Congress. "They were there fighting all the way. Not our day this time."

Hontiveros said he was happy overall "for the four medals that our bowlers produced this time."

Bowling gave the country its first gold medal last Friday when Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista won the men's doubles.

Bowlers produced two more silver medals through the men's trio and 5-person event in women, and a bronze in the women's singles through Clutario.

Of the 12 bowlers (6 men and 6 women), only Rivera failed to bring home a medal. Kathleen Ann Lopez was given a silver as an alternate in the women's 5-person event.

Rockets taking Yao for \$18M

HOUSTON, Texas—The Houston Rockets are close to signing Chinese center Yao Ming to an \$18-million multi-year deal, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The newspaper reported on Tuesday that Yao still needs approval from the China Basketball Association. Yao is the first player from China to be picked No. 1 overall in the National Basketball Association draft.

Yao, 22, is currently playing for China at the Asian Games in South Korea.

Rockets officials have said for weeks they don't expect a problem in signing Yao but negotiations with Chinese officials have not been easy since the Rockets drafted Yao.

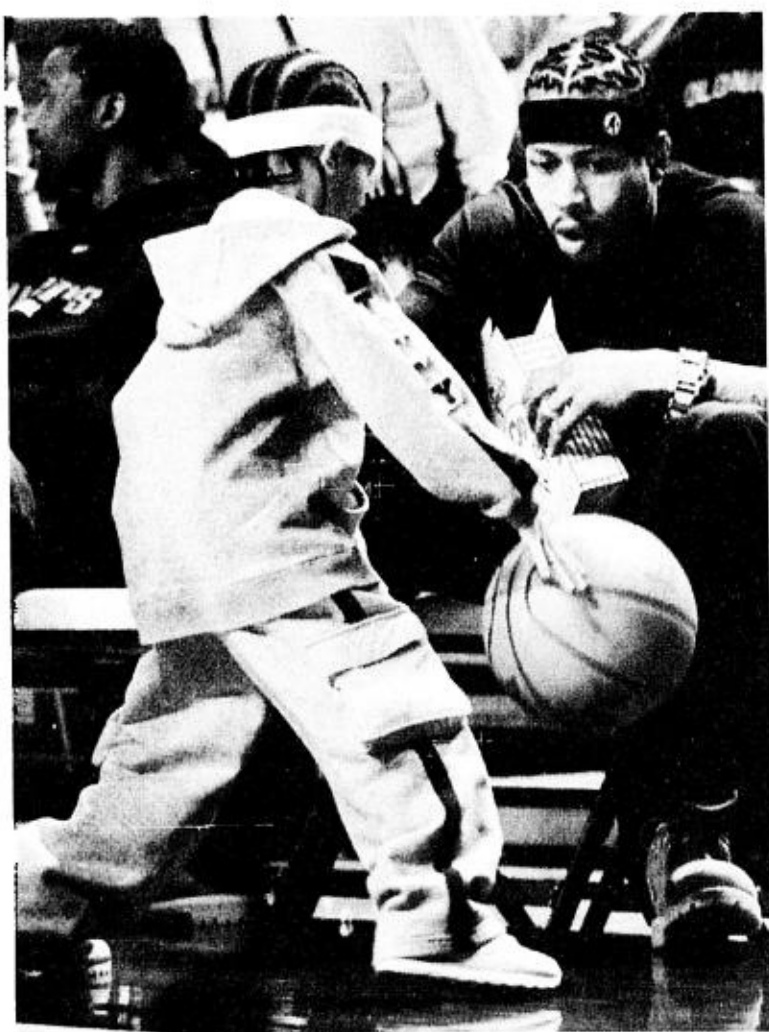
The Rockets, who beat the Memphis Grizzlies 106-98 in an exhibition game Tuesday night, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Rockets general manager Carroll Dawson told the newspaper earlier he had no comment, saying, "There's nothing new to report at this time." The Rockets said there would be no announcements until they receive the signed contracts.

AFP



20 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that if the Utah Jazz make it to the NBA Playoffs this year, it will mark their 20th consecutive year to reach the post-season? That's second behind the NBA record of 25 straight by the Philadelphia 76ers, from 1947-71.



ALLEN AND SON

Allen Iverson (right) of the Philadelphia 76ers watches as his son Allen "Deuce" Iverson bounces a basketball near the team's bench prior to the start of a pre-season game with the San Antonio Spurs at the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State University in Pennsylvania on Tuesday night.

AFP

Twins edge Angels in AL opener, 2-1

'Uwak' golfest Oct. 29

MINNEAPOLIS—The Minnesota Twins just won't go away.

The team that wasn't supposed to make it to opening day isn't a surprise anymore.

Joe Mays shut down Anaheim for eight innings and Corey Koskie hit a go-ahead double Tuesday night, lifting the Twins over the Angels 2-1 in the opener of this improbable American League championship series.

Before 55,562 screaming, handkerchief-waving fans in the Metrodome, and with commissioner Bud Selig watching from a luxury suite behind home plate, the Twins

signaled the time has come to forget the Yankees, Braves and other big spenders who have dominated the playoffs in recent years.

Game 2 is set Wednesday.

And they showed just how dominant they are in the Metrodome, improving to 13-2 there in postseason play. Game 2 is in the dome Wednesday night, with Rick Reed pitching for the Twins against Ramon Ortiz.

The Metrodome was festive for its biggest night since Oct. 27, 1991, when Jack Morris pitched a 10-inning shutout against Atlanta to win Game 7 of the World Series 1-0. AP

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 Race 2—1. Bidang Bida 2. Baby Lite
 Race 3—1. Pilgrim 2. Imperial Act 3. Key to Heaven
 Race 4—1. Race for Gold 2. Courage Heart 3. Hercules 4. Super Spotted 5. Gleaming Heart
 Race 5—1. Are You Happy 2. Replica 3. Super Dancer 4. Belle D Amour
 Race 6—1. Judicial System 2. Irish Diplomat 3. Shen Zhen Girl
 Race 7—1. Fast Eddie 2. Gemstone 3. Royal Lantana 4. Kay Rufina 5. Mrs. Big
 Race 8—1. Princess Jonalyn 2. Beat D Heat 3. Morning Glory 4. Boy Yoski 5. Pride of Mandaue
 Race 9—1. Sensational 2. Loose Cannon 3. Baccarat 4. Dynasty 5. Spectacular Queen
 Race 10—1. Best Gift 2. Ichiro 3. Arbitrator 4. Remarkable 5. Ananpour 6. Let Me Pass

PBL backcourtmen hog limelight

THE PBL Challenge Cup opens next month with a mixture of old and new backcourtmen expected to share the limelight.

Some of those expected to shine in the upcoming conference include John-O's Celino Cruz, Edrick Ferrer and Al Vergara; Blu Detergent's Lou Gatumbato and John Paul Prior; Shark's Warren Ybanez; Welcoat's Paul Artadi, Dennis Miranda and Paolo Malonzo; and Montana's Edgar Echavez, Marlon Kalaw and Christian Coronel.

Of the teams entered in the Challenge Cup, John-O, Welcoat and Montafia boast of an array of experienced court generals.

John-O, which won the 1st PBL-CBF Dual Meet held recently, can alternate its three pointguards—Ferrer, Cruz and Vergara—without sacrific-

ing the team's offensive patterns. But if the recent PBL-CBF Meet was any indication, Ferrer appears to be its main man at the point.

But Cruz, who steered Welcoat to several championships, and Vergara, St. Francis of Assisi's high-scoring quarterback, are both very capable of directing the team's play at any given time, although Ferrer's edge is that he can score from the outside.

4th Ucap Phoenix derby unfolds today

QUALITY fights are on tap in today's 4th Ucap Phoenix 7-Stage Derby championship round at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds, Bagcor and Washout Shampoo

of Lakoue Drug Inc. Host of the derby is Ucap mainstay Mario Villamor.

Currently leading the field after last Tuesday's 3-stage elimination round are King Boxer and Sir Vincent of OP-1 president Vic Yu, Guts and Glory of

Alex Tang, Blue Blade JBB of engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brilantes and San Rafael of Jessie Viceo.

For other details, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.



SLR TOUR CHAMPS

Members of the host Rancho Palos Verdes Golf Club in Davao which topped Group I of the Sta. Lucia Tour recently are shown with Sta. Lucia EVP Vicente Santos (extreme left), executive committee co-chair Winifredo Gob (extreme right) and RPV treasurer Madeline Marfori. Showing off their trophies are, from right, Marcelino Tibor, Paul Larrabaster, Anton Ferrazzini and Willy de Leon.

ASIAD ROUNDUP

'San San' surfing champ again; China bloats leadBy Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—Lee Lai-shan, who learned windsurfing in a Hong Kong fishing village, proved as reliable as China's divers in winning gold at the Asian Games on Wednesday.

For Chinese table tennis players, the day marked a return to winning ways. They captured the men's and women's singles titles after losing in four of five earlier events in the sport they once dominated.

The gold medal match between the Indonesian and South Korean men's badminton teams was delayed for two hours when Indonesia's first player, Taufik Hidayat, stormed off over line calls that team manager Christian Hidayat called "blatantly unfair and biased against us."

Hidayat lost to South Korea's Song Seong-mo, leaving Indonesia behind 1-0 as the team match continued late Wednesday.

The 32-year-old Lee, known as "San San," was one of only three sailing winners who were not from China or South Korea. Those nations won six golds each on waters near Busan's most popular beach.

Lee, the games' defending champion and 1996 Olympic gold medalist in women's Mistral sailing, didn't even need to sail in the final two of the 11 races. She had an unbeatable lead after seven firsts and two seconds.

It was Hong Kong's fourth gold medal of the games.

China, meanwhile, increased its total to 119 with two more diving victories, three in athletics, two in table tennis and one in rhythmic gymnastics, in addition to the sailing triumphs.

South Korea was a distant second with 58 and Japan followed with 37.

Chinese won eight of 10 diving events at last year's world championships, and have taken the first four of eight scheduled here.

World champions Peng Bo and Wang Kenan won the men's synchronized 3-meter springboard event. Duan Qing, who shared in a gold medal last year, joined new partner Li Ting in winning the women's synchronized platform competition.

Northwoods vs S'woods

ROYAL Northwoods tries to continue with its Cinderella season when it battles a heavily favored Manila Southwoods in a quarterfinal pairing as exciting as the Alabang-Manila Golf showdown at the resumption of the Smart-sponsored Federation League this weekend.

Fresh off a 3-1 mastery of Eastridge that allowed it to edge Wack Wack for the second quarters slot in Group II, league newcomer Northwoods will be playing as the underdog against a Southwoods side expected to be led by reigning national champion Jerome Delariente.

It will be a home-and-away duel which will determine the challenger to Mimosa, one of the two automatic semifinalists in the event organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

The Alabang-Manila Golf tiff, meanwhile, will be for the right to challenge defending champion Forest Hills, which clinched the first semis berth after topping the eliminations with 14 points.

Alabang is the second qualifier from Group 1. In its final outing, Alabang had fought Mt. Malarayat to a 2-2 deadlock.

Manila Golf, on the other hand, sneaked into the next round after beating Canlubang in a tiebreak for the second slot. The two ended with similar 10 games points but Manila Golf had more match points (18.5) than Canlubang (17).

The semifinals will be held Oct. 19-20 and the finals on Oct. 26-27.

Boy Unson and Danny Daliha provided the marginal win for Northwoods by taking the high-low match, 1 up. Rodel Mangulabnan-Omar Dungca prevailed in the aggregate and Sonny Donato-Floyd dela Cruz took the scramble.

Table tennis world champion Wang Liqin beat Taiwan's Chuang Chih-yuan 11-4, 12-10, 13-11, 11-7 for the men's gold. In an all-Chinese women's final, No. 2 Zhang Yining defeated No. 1 Wang Nan 11-7, 11-6, 7-11, 12-14, 11-8, 6-11, 11-9.

In athletics, China's Guo Shuying won the women's pole vault by clearing 4.35 meters, beating the games mark of 4.00 set by compatriot Cai Weiyan in 1998, and Li Meiju won the women's shot put. Liu Xiang won the men's 110-meter hurdles.

Runners from the Middle East kept up their success on the track.

After Saudi Arabia won three golds on the two previous days, Kuwait's Fawzi Al-Shammari edged Saudi runner Hamdan O. Al-Bishi 44.93 seconds to 44.95 in the men's 400 meters.

But in field events, Saudi Arabia's Salem M.M. Al-Mowallad won the triple jump, with 16.60 meters to 16.57 by China's Lao Jianfeng.

Qatar's Khamis Abdulla Saifeldin beat Japan's Yoshitaka Iwamizu by 1.2 seconds in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and Bahrain's Rashid Mohamed won the men's 800.

Thailand finished with five of the six gold medals in sepak takraw, an acrobatic form of volleyball in which use of the hands is barred. In the men's regu final, it beat Myanmar 2-0. In the women's, it defeated China 2-0. The Thais missed gold only in the men's circle event.

In tennis, the two Thais seeded first in men's and women's singles both won.

Paradorn Srichaphan needed only 35 minutes to advance to the men's quarterfinals with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Tajikistan's Sergei Makashin.

But after taking a 5-0 lead, Tamarine Tanasugarn lost six straight games before reaching the women's semifinals with a 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory over South Korea's Jeon Mi-ra.

Shalin Zulkifli, the Malaysian delegation's flag carrier at the opening ceremonies, led qualifying with 3,612 for 16 games and won the women's masters bowling by beating compatriot Lai Kin Ngoh 465-381 in the two-game gold medal match.

Singapore's Remy Ong beat Qatar's Mubarak Al-Murakhi 444-424 for the men's gold after leading qualifying with 3,749.

adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	120	57	48	225
South Korea	58	59	68	185
Japan	37	61	50	148
Kazakhstan	13	12	16	41
Thailand	9	11	6	26
N. Korea	7	11	11	29
Uzbekistan	7	7	10	24
Chinese Taipei	6	9	18	33
India	6	7	8	21
Singapore	5	2	9	16
Qatar	4	5	2	11
Hong Kong	4	3	9	16
Saudi Arabia	4	1	0	5
Malaysia	3	7	6	16
Iran	2	7	12	21
Indonesia	2	5	5	12
Philippines	2	3	6	11
Vietnam	2	2	4	8
Bahrain	2	1	2	5
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	10	12
Sri Lanka	1	1	1	3
Kuwait	1	0	1	2
Lebanon	1	0	0	1
Myanmar	0	5	5	10
Kyrgyzstan	0	3	4	7
Pakistan	0	2	5	7
Tajikistan	0	2	1	3
United Arab Emirates	0	2	1	3
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1

*As of 8 p.m.

RP SKED IN BUSAN

Oct. 10, 2002

(Korea time 1 hr. ahead of RP time)

Athletics 2:30 p.m.—E. Buenavista, 5000m run (finals); 3 p.m.—S. Guevarra, high jump (finals)
Archery 2 to 5 p.m.—M. Cordero, C. Cubilla, F. Matan, A. Rojas, men's team, Olympic round (1/8F, qtrfinal, semifinal, 3rd-4th, 1st-2nd)
Badminton 2 to 6:30 p.m.—K. Asuncion, men's singles (1st rd, rd of 32, rd of 16)
Diving 10 a.m.—S. Perez, women's 3m springboard (prelim, semifinals); 7 p.m.—Women's 3m springboard (finals)
Taekwondo 2 to 9 p.m.—E. Ditan, finweight; R. Cruz, finweight; A. Briones, lightweight, men/women (finals)
Wushu 10 a.m. to 12 noon—M. Lim, women's taijiquan (prelim); 12 noon to 1 p.m.—M. Rosales, A. Ting, changquan (prelim); 3:30 to 7 p.m.—M. Sicomenm, 52 kg; R. Nganhayna, 56 kg; J. Pasiwat, 60 kg; E. Folang, 65 kg, sanshou (prelim)



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BASEBALL: MLB NL Championship Series Game 1, 8 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.), AL, 5 p.m., ESPN

VOLLEYBALL: 2002 FIVB Men's World Championship, 1 p.m., ESPN

GOLF: Solheim Cup 2002, 1 p.m., Star Sports

SOCCER: EPL - Arsenal vs Sunderland, 7 a.m., Star Sports

Futbol Mundial, 7:30 p.m., Star Sports

BILLIARDS: Asian 8-Ball Championships 2002, 12 noon (r), Star Sports

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2 boxers fall; 1 man standing

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Gloom enveloped Philippine boxing yesterday when two quarterfinalists absorbed terrible defeats, leaving only one to carry the fight in the 14th Asian Games at the Masan Stadium here.

First, lightweight Anthony Iguisquiza lost by referee-stopped-contest (outclassed) to Uzbekistan's Mahmudov Dilshov in a bout that was halted when the Filipino fell behind by 15 points in Round 3.

Under the rules, a boxer automatically loses a fight once he lags behind by 15 points or more anytime during the four-round bout. Thus, the word "outclassed" after the referee has stopped the contest.

Just minutes later, the Philippines suffered a more telling blow when it received the shock of seeing middleweight Maroon Golez floored by his Pakistani opponent right in the first round.

Golez was knocked down with 10 seconds



DILSHOV(right) connects against Iguisquiza.

to go in the round and was declared loser by knockout.

The 21-year-old Golez got hit by a left hook to the face while backing after absorbing a slip, sending him crashing to the floor to the

horror of the RP coaching staff.

Although he managed to get up before the count of 10, the referee, detecting that the Filipino fighter had glazed eyes, declared the 5-foot-11 Golez loser by knockout.

The ending came so sudden as the boxer from Mandaue, Cebu, appeared leading the fight after smoking out from his corner at the sound of the bell.

"This sport is really very cruel," said Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing of the Philippines. "You can never tell what's going to happen. But I'm still proud of the boys. They didn't lack the discipline of a real athlete. They prepared hard, sacrificed a lot in order to represent the country."

The setbacks threw Iguisquiza and Golez out of the medal race as a win for the duo would have assured them of a bronze medal.

They joined their teammates Christopher Camat, Romeo Brin, Violito Payla, Ferdie Gamo and Roel Laguna to the showers in another humbling experience reminiscent of the that zero performance in Bangkok four years ago.

But more significantly, their exit left only Harry Tanamor as the country's last hope to clinch a gold medal to avert another shutout.

The 24-year-old Tanamor won his quarter-final fight on Tuesday to assure himself of a bronze in the light-flyweight (48 kg) division.

But for him to clinch the gold medal, the kid from Zamboanga City has the formidable task of beating both a Thai opponent on Oct. 12 and a South Korean on Oct. 14.

Just a bad day—Cortez

By Dennis U. Eroa

PLAYMAKING wizard Mike Cortez yesterday finally broke his silence regarding questions on his performance in the deciding game between eventual champion Ateneo and La Salle for the UAAP title recently.

"It was a bad day," Cortez told the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview. After explosive showings in Game One and Two, Cortez, nicknamed the Cool Cat, suddenly lost his touch as the Green Archers kissed their bid for a fifth straight title goodbye, 77-70, last Sunday at the Big Dome.

"There's no need for me to evade reporters. I am spending a lot of time with my family," said Cortez, who stays with his wife Joy, a classmate at Carson High in California, five-month-old son Jacob, parents Mike and Cindy.

The 6-foot Cortez drilled in 13 points, but it hardly mattered as he failed to essay his take-charge-guy role to the fullest. He seemed tentative, a player lost in the scheme of things which hastened La Salle's downfall.

"I'm not angry with people saying bad things about me after Game Three. I hope to emerge stronger after this experience," Cortez said. He finished with a woeful 2 of 13 field goal shooting, getting his points mostly from the free throw area (8 of 10).

Also playing without their usual fire were Willy Wilson and Mark Cardona. Wilson played with heavy legs all throughout.

Cortez, unlike Ateneo main man Enrico Villanueva, remains non-committal whether he's joining the 2003 PBA draft on January.

Villanueva, La Salle's Adonis Sta. Maria and Wilson are joining the draft.

"Yes, I'm turning pro this January. Playing in the PBA is a lifetime dream," Villanueva told the INQUIRER.

The 6-foot-5 Villanueva emerged as MVP during the regular UAAP season. He also won MVP honors in the PBL Challenge Cup.

Meanwhile, the UAAP Press Corps will hold its awarding ceremonies today for players and coaches who excelled during the senior and junior finals. Venue is the Korniks Cafe at the Remedios Circle in Malate.

The awardees are Ateneo's Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier; UP's Marvin Cruz and BJ Manalo of La Salle. Joel Banal is coach of the year, while a special citation will be given to UP mentor Lito Vergara.

Mutya ng Pilipinas runner-up Frances Margaret Arreza and Allison Lopez will emcee the affair.



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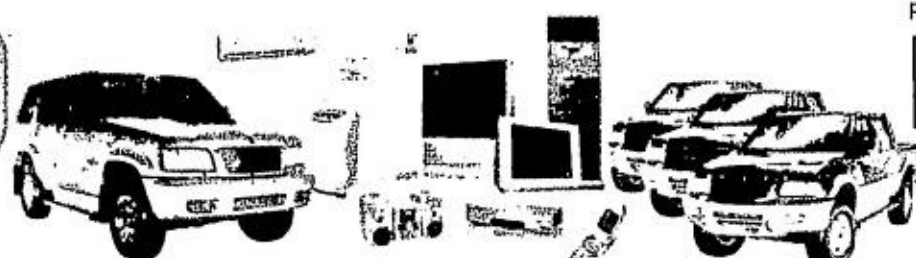
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METRO

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■ Military behind abduction of TV crew /A24

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 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1713, Series of 2002.

'I no longer trust the police'

By Philip Tubeza

LUCITA Macaldo on Tuesday prepared a lunch of noodles with sardines for her son Victor, the suspect in the killing of former Manila councilor Chika Go.

But she never got to give it to him nor say goodbye to Victor who was shot by a policeman on Tuesday for allegedly grabbing a lawman's gun.

"I no longer trust the police," said Lucita, 56. "Who should I blame but the police?"

"How could they do this to my son? We have our courts. He should not have died like this. What are (the police) afraid of? That their charges against him will be proven false?"

Lucita was still clutching the plastic bag containing her son's lunch when she told reporters that she asked the authorities two months ago "to transfer (her son) to the Manila City Jail."

"But they did not, saying they would take care of him," she said. And apparently they did.

Detective Virgo Villareal said PO2 Leslie Teodoro Bautista admitted he shot Macaldo at around 8 a.m. Tuesday on Romualdez Street, Ermita, Manila.

Macaldo, Bautista, SPO3 Mario Mateo, and PO2 Jonathan Ruiz, were on board a jeep bound for the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court when two men on board a yellow Yamaha motorcycle with no license plates, pulled up beside the jeep and opened fire.

The jeep had five bullet holes, but not one of the three policemen was injured.

As Ruiz steered the jeep away from the men on motorcycle, the handcuffed Macaldo lunged forward and snatched Ruiz's firearm, Villareal said.

Macaldo allegedly began firing the gun while Bautista tried to grab it back. During the struggle, the gun went off and hit Macaldo in the left leg, Villareal said.

But Macaldo still had the gun and allegedly continued to "resist," forcing Bautista to shoot the

suspect in the jaw at close range.

It was not clear how Macaldo "physically resisted" the officers, despite the handcuffs and injury.

"In the meantime, the suspects on board the motorcycle sped away," Villareal added.

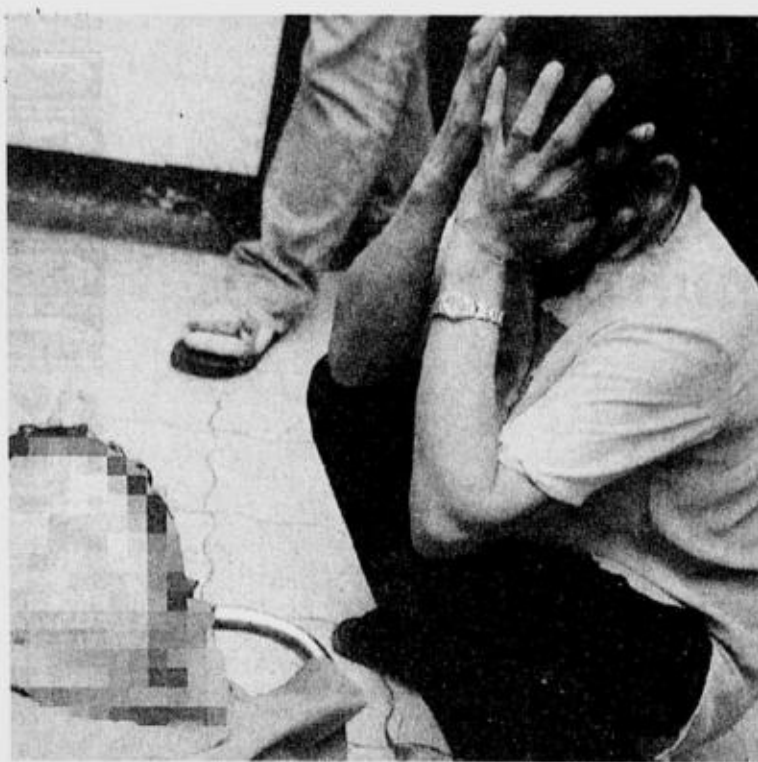
Macaldo was taken to the Manila Medical Center and was later transferred to the Ospital ng Maynila, where he died.

Lucita said she only learned of her son's death after waiting for hours for her son at the WPD headquarters.

"Salbahe yung anak mo," a policeman of the WPD's District Police Intelligence Unit allegedly told her when she asked him where her son was at around noon Tuesday. "He tried to grab a policeman's gun."

Curiously, the ambush was not reported at the WPD Tactical Operations Center and the Ermita police station as late as 5 p.m. that same day.

Lucita also said that her son was tortured into confessing to the crimes attributed to him.



LUCITA Macaldo grieves over her son, Victor, who was allegedly killed when he grabbed the gun of a policeman escorting him to a Manila court on Tuesday.

Bantay Kalikasan worker beheaded

By Alcuin Papa

Robert "Bobby" Glee, who worked for ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan Foundation, was shot and beheaded the other day at the La Mesa Watershed in Rizal province.

Policemen have yet to determine why suspects Norlito Guerrero, his cousins Christopher and Frankie Guerrero, Alfie Espinosa and a certain "Rene Bungo," decided to kill Glee, 45, of Sitio Calumpit, Makabut, Rizal.

Glee was a member of Bantay Kalikasan's Save La Mesa Watershed Project, and stayed at the foundation's multi-purpose building.

According to a statement from Bantay Kalikasan, Glee helped in guarding the forest, aside from planting, weeding and fertilizing vegetation.

According to police reports, one of the suspects went to the building where Glee lived at around noon yesterday and warned him that certain people were out to kill him.

Glee then told his wife Marilyn to flee and seek help. After a few minutes, four other suspects arrive, entered the building and attacked Glee.

The victim used a bolo to defend himself. But one of the suspects pulled out a handgun and shot Glee, police said.

As Glee staggered out of the building, the suspects followed him and shot him several times in the back. One of the suspects grabbed Glee's bolo and hacked the victim's neck until it was severed.

Witnesses told police that the suspects, were under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Police said the suspects were migrants living inside the watershed.

Bantay Kalikasan called Glee a "Bayaning Kalikasan."

"(Glee) died not realizing his dream (to protect the forest). But he died trying his best in pursuing his mission."

Spanish night at the Tent

A SPANISH Night, made perfect by the passion and grace of Torres Wines and Brandy, will be the theme of Ten at the Tent cocktails tonight (Oct. 10) at 6:30 at the MBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City. The Spanish ambassador Tomas Rodriguez-Pantoja will be guest of honor.

Group slams MMDA Star TV to pull out channels from Destiny plan to dump trash in South Luzon

By Leila B. Salaverria

A LOCAL environmentalist group has expressed its opposition to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando's plan to dump the metropolis' garbage in Southern Luzon, saying the plan will turn residents there into "glorified scavengers."

"The construction of a dumpsite and of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in a province may give job opportunities to the residents, but it would only turn them into glorified scavengers," said Ester Perez De Tagle, founder of the Concerned Citizens Against Pollution.

Instead of focusing on building dumpsites and MRFs, the MMDA should instead focus on implementing RA 9003, or the Solid Waste Management Act, to solve Metro Manila's garbage problem, she added.

De Tagle said RA 9003, which says that residents should recycle and segregate their garbage at the source, would eliminate the need for dumpsites which is harmful to the environment.

"The solution to the garbage problem is there, it's in the law," De Tagle told the INQUIRER. "It only needs to be implemented."

She said Fernando should apply his determination in implementing RA 9003.

"Since he is strict in implementing the law in his campaign against sidewalk obstructions, he should be as resolute in implementing the Solid Waste Management Act. Why is he not implementing it?"

She also urged Fernando to give recycling and segregating a chance before shooting it down.

The MMDA's Fernando has plans to transport Metro Manila's garbage to the south using railways, and to build a dumpsite and an MRF in the chosen area. The MMDA is in the process of selecting a site for the P1.5B project.

Star TV to pull out channels from Destiny

By Leah Salterio

SUBSCRIBERS of Destiny Cable will have reason to complain on Oct. 15, when five Star TV channels will stop airing on the cable TV network.

Destiny will have to stop carrying Star Movies, Star Sports, Star World, ESPN and National Geographic, due to the exclusivity of contract which Star TV recently signed with SkyCable.

Destiny received a letter on Oct. 4 from Charles Pollard, regional director of Star TV in Singapore, who pointed out the end of contract of Star TV with Destiny at

11:59 p.m. on Oct. 14. The letter was addressed to David Lim, president of Destiny Cable.

According to Richard Rodriguez, Destiny's senior marketing manager, the letter did not mention any explanation or compelling reason for the cancellation of the contract.

"We were in shock," Rodriguez said. "There wasn't even any prior notice that they would no longer renew their contract with us. In their letter, there was no mention why they are arbitrarily cutting off the service. I don't know if it was really meant to favor a rival operator."

Since Destiny started in 1996, Rodriguez said their cable company has maintained good business relationship with Star TV.

"We haven't had any problems with them," Rodriguez said. "We never had any rift or misunderstanding with them. We have no arrears."

He said it is unfortunate that Star TV will cut its services to Destiny now that the NBA season will start on Oct. 30.

Rodriguez, however, assures Destiny subscribers that they are exerting all efforts to retain Star TV channels on their cable network.

Minor stabs dead her live-in partner

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl allegedly stabbed dead Tuesday night her 38-year-old live-in partner after he forced her to have sex with him in Taguig, police said.

The girl fumed when the drunken victim arrived at their shanty in Barangay Bagong Tanyag at around 10 p.m. and told her he wanted to make love, police said.

When the girl refused because she supposedly had fever, the victim allegedly twisted her arm and berated her.

The girl grabbed a bread knife and stabbed her live-in partner of four months in the neck, police said.

The victim died before he could be taken to the hospital.

Police said the girl immediately turned herself in.

WPD: PUP abduction legit police operation

By Philip Tubeza and Alcuin Papa

"IT WAS a legitimate operation."

This was what Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Western Police District Director, said of the alleged abduction of two Polytechnic University of the Philippines students and a canteen owner on Monday.

Bulaong denied that two students were kidnapped but said the National Capital Region Police Office's Regional Intelligence and Special Operations Office did arrest a soldier who

tried to pass himself off as a member of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang and another person for trying to extort P2 million from an official of the Jollibee food corporation.

NCRPO Chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco yesterday identified the suspects as Private First Class Noel Corsinon of the Philippine Army, and Omar Rintusa, a resident of Centennial Village, Bicutan, Metro Manila.

According to a police report, the suspects tried to extort P2 million from

Dioscoro Dimaculangan, said to be a ranking Jollibee official, threatening the victim that they would detonate bombs at the main office of Jollibee and five of its branches if he refused their demand.

Police later got wind of the extortion and arrested the suspects at the PUP campus in Sta. Mesa at around 3 p.m.

Bulaong blamed a PUP security guard for the initial report that two PUP students and the canteen owner were kidnapped.

QC's outstanding 10 honored

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is guest of honor and speaker at the Gabi ng Parangal honoring the Ten Outstanding Citizens of Quezon City to be held at the Celebrity Sports Plaza on Oct. 11, at 7 p.m.

The occasion, which will recognize the awardees' invaluable service to Quezon City and the whole country, will also mark the city's 63rd foundation anniversary.

Former President Corason Cojuangco Aquino, who will receive the award for Government Service, heads the list of Awardees

of the Ten Outstanding Citizens of Quezon City at the Gabi ng Parangal.

The nine other awardees are: Dr. Onofre D. Corpuz for Education; Dr. Fe del Mundo for Medicine; Justice Milagros A. German for Judiciary and Agrarian reform; Regina Paz L. Lopez for Community Service; Raymundo S. Punongbayan for Science and Technology; Gen. Angelo T. Reyes for Military Service; Rosa Rosal for Social Work; Mel Tiangco for Mass Media, and Eugene O. Torre for Sports.

The awardees will receive gold medallions and

hand-crafted Plaques of Recognition in narra and bronze, specially designed for the Ten Outstanding Citizens of Quezon City.

In handing out the awards, the president will be assisted by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista.

Dr. Victor Endriga is the overall chair of the 63rd Q.C. Foundation Anniversary Celebration.

Awards Committee chair is Ligaya D. Perez.

Gabi ng Parangal masters of ceremonies are Councilors Jorge Banal and Aiko Yllana.

Military behind abduction of TV crew

MILITARY higher-ups must be red in the face after it was found out that the kidnapping of two TV journalists in Sulu recently was not the work of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf but some military men.

Connect the abduction of GMA 7 reporter Carlo Lorenzo and cameraman Gilbert Ordiales to the ban imposed on journalists from covering the troubled island-province, and you have a good picture of who was behind the kidnapping.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, 104th Army Brigade commander, had forbidden journalists from coming to Sulu to cover the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf.

It turned out the guys who kidnapped Lorenzo and Ordiales, who have since been released, were enlisted men under Capt. Alex Musnigi, intelligence officer of the 104th Army Brigade.

Ah, so...! No more comment needed.

What kind of logic has Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief?

He said that it was unfair to blame the military for the abduction of the two broadcast journalists.

"The fact that Hadja is the prime suspect, then her escorts are also suspects. However, to say at this point that soldiers did it is incorrect and misleading," the highest-ranking general in Mindanao said.

Let's dissect the statement of Carolina.

"Hadja" is Hadja Jarma Imran, alias Hadja Lyn, a military intelligence asset who was provided with escorts from the intelligence section (G-2) of the 104th Brigade.

The two freed journalists pointed to Lyn's escorts as the ones who

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

abducted them while they were on the way to interview some troops of the Abu Sayyaf.

Since Lyn got her escorts from the 104th Army Brigade, why is it "incorrect and misleading" to say that soldiers were behind the abduction?

Let's analyze more statements from Carolina: "It is correct to say that two integrees are involved. Evidence and declarations made after Carlo was released point to that. The result of the ongoing investigation will establish the degree of participation of the integrees. To say at this point that soldiers did it discredits the whole (Armed Forces of the Philippines)."

Hold it right there, General! Are you saying that the integrees are not members of the AFP?

For the benefit of readers who are not knowledgeable about the terminology of the military in Mindanao, integrees are former rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front who have been absorbed by the AFP. They receive the same salaries and benefits as regular soldiers.

So, if Carolina does not consider the integrees as soldiers, then what are they? Why were they assigned to the 104th Army Brigade?

Why does the Armed Forces continue to assign former MNLF rebels who have been absorbed into the military in their own territory?

This is bad tactics. Ex-MNLF rebels would never fight their former com-

rades-in-arms. Former MNLF rebels would be very effective going after New People's Army rebels or criminals in non-Muslim areas.

During World War II, the United States government recruited second generation Japanese-Americans into the Army.

These Japanese-Americans, called "Nissei," were not assigned to fight in the Pacific area, held by Japan, but in Europe, which had been conquered by Germany.

The Japanese-American soldiers did very well because they did not have the mental block that they were fighting their own kind.

Why can't our Armed Forces high command do the same thing with ex-MNLF rebels?

The recall election in Puerto Princesa is over and yet the position of the winner, Edward Hagedorn, is still in doubt.

Hagedorn may or may not be able to sit as mayor. The Supreme Court still has to decide whether his election is valid or not.

Hagedorn won over the incumbent mayor, Dennis Socrates.

Hagedorn was the mayor immediately before Socrates. He couldn't run for reelection in the last election because he had already been elected for three consecutive terms. The law prohibits an elective official from running for the same office after his third consecutive term.

Socrates, who doesn't have the executive ability and charisma that his late father, Gov. Salvador Socrates, had, was the subject of the recall election.

How long will Hagedorn have to wait for the Supreme Court decide on his fate?

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The movies they're making

ACTOR Bill Paxton makes an impressive debut as director in "Frailty," in which he also co-stars with Matthew McConaughey. The powerful movie is about a series of crimes that shatter the peace in a small Texas town in the '70s.

The disturbing tale begins with a God-fearing widower (Paxton) waking his children up in the middle of the night to tell them that an angel has appeared before him to announce that judgement day has come, and God has chosen them to rid the earth of demons who are posing as ordinary people.

It seems like the angel has given Paxton's character a list of demons, whom they proceed to capture and execute. Flash forward to the present, with one of the sons (McConaughey) now grown up, and the other no longer around because he is supposed to have killed himself after claiming his last victim.

The old cases have aroused interest again after more than two decades, because some of them have remained unsolved, and new "God's Hand" murders have been committed.

McConaughey's character tells his grisly tale to an FBI agent (Power Boothe), and takes him to a rose garden where all the victims are buried, and the agent finally sees the truth.

Meanwhile, "Ghost Ship" is about the discovery of a mysterious vessel floating adrift off the coast of Alaska, which turns out to be the long-lost Antonia Graza, the salvage rights to which are worth a fortune.

But, once aboard the decaying vessel, the salvage team discover that it is anything but deserted. It's become home to a horrific force that now threatens the salvages' own survival.

"Ghost Ship" stars Gabriel Byrne, Juliana Margulies and Ron Eldard. It is produced by Joel Silver.

Our third new film, "Like Mike," stars 14-year-old rap artist Lil Bow Wow as a diminutive boy who wants to become an NBA superstar. Everyone says he's just indulging in fantasy, but after he puts on a mysterious pair of old sneakers, he proves them wrong.

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

He hits 25-foot jumpers, makes behind-the-back passes, and slams home a series of devastating dunk shots. Some camera tricks are used by director John Schultz to sweeten the excitement of Lil Bow Wow's fancy basketball moves. And, to add to the movies viewer appeal, real NBA stars like the Super-sonics' Gary Payton make cameo appearances.

Finally new action star Jason Statham stars in Hong Kong director Cony Yuen's high-octane thriller, "The Transporter." Statham plays an ex-special Forces operator who appears to be living a quiet life in Europe. Actually, he's a mercenary "transporter" for hire who moves humans and goods from one place to another, no questions asked.

On his latest job, however, he breaks some rules and asks a lot of questions when he discovers that he's transporting a beautiful woman. He decides to help her escape, and this involves him in many new dangers that threaten his very life.

Janet Basco at Calesa Bar

ON FRIDAY, Oct. 11, it's Janet Basco's turn to perform in a special show at the Hyatt's famous Calesa Music Bar and lounge, as part of the "Calesa divas" concert series in honor of resident pianist Rudy Francisco, who is celebrating his 35th anniversary with Hyatt Regency Manila in March, 2003.

Janet sang at Calesa Bar for three years before she moved on to live-performance and recording stardom. Looking back on her productive stint at the Hyatt's famous musical lounge, Janet declares, "Calesa is the best place to have one's singing talent." Let's hope promising young characters out there are listening!

tening!

For his part, Rudy reveals, "Janet was a trendsetter. She included new songs in her repertoire even before they became hits. She did research on the latest tunes, and her extra effort paid off because, on the three nights per week that she performed at Calesa, she filled up the place."

No doubt, Calesa will be full again on Oct. 11 as Janet and Rudy cast their old musical magic anew.

'Ashz Meets.....'

CHANNEL [V] features the best of "Ashz Meets..." every Thursday at noon this month. The program features interviews with the hottest musical comers of the season.

Movies on TV

HUNDREDS of movies are shown on television each week. Here are some that are more promising than most:

On Oct. 10 (today), the focus is on technoman Moby. On Oct. 17, it's on the alternative band Suede, and on Oct. 24, it's on the popular boy band, Westlife.

Sunday, Oct. 13 at 11:15 a.m., "Harlem Nights." 6:30 p.m., "Baby Geniuses." 8 p.m., "The Hunt for Red October." 11:50 p.m., "Frankie and Johnny."

Monday, Oct. 14 at 8:45 a.m., "The Adams Family." 4:30 p.m., "Muppets from Space." At 6:30 a.m., "Cotton Mary." 11 p.m., "Clear and Present Danger."

On the Cinemax channel: Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 a.m., "Once Upon a Time in the West." 1:45 a.m., "Being John Malkovich." 3:45 a.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made, Part 1."

Thursday, Oct. 10 at 5:30 p.m., "James Dean." Friday, Oct. 11 at 1:40 a.m., "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." Saturday, Oct. 12 at 2 p.m., "Born Yesterday."

Sunday, Oct. 13 at 7:15 p.m., "The Secret of My Success." Monday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 a.m., "The Caine Mutiny." Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 1:35 a.m., "Reservoir Dogs."

Social climber non pareil

A TV HOST and actress was duped into putting up a garment business with this woman who overwhelmed her with lavish kindness.

The woman pampers the stars with goods from her shop. Little do they know that this is just her ploy to enable her to hobnob with celebrities. Social climber non-pareil.

Soon enough the venture floundered because of the businesswoman's financial mess. The TV host didn't want to get into the trouble of pressing charges against her so she just charged it to experience. No wonder the TV host no longer greets the woman on her show.

As if that's not enough, she's said to be poised to commit a breach of contract in another business endeavor with a well-respected talent manager. To think that she had begged him to save her from financial ruin. Now now she just wants to terminate the contract even if the manager pays all his dues on time. She's demanding that he pay her 6 million for the entire business establishment but the manager knows better.

The businesswoman wants to end their business relations because she found a new investor to victimize. It's really just disposable income for the manager and the only reason he refuses to budge is that he pities his staff who will be displaced. When, oh when, will her modus operandi stop?

Social climbers like her ought to keep climbing mountains, as far away from the civilized world as possible because they don't have social graces at all. Disgrace, that's what they are to the alta sociedad!

No qualms

WONDER when a very popular comedienne and her director love, another woman, will come out in the open about their romance? In inner show biz circles, their couple has no qualms about showing their affection for each other. Ms. Director is often seen driving the comedienne's sports car. The comedienne probably had more than enough heartaches to bear after her tu-

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal



multuous relationship with a bal-ladeer finally ended and so she would rather get involved with a lesbian than with another man. Well, love sees no color. It shouldn't see gender, too. One feeling fits all!

Just asking

IT seems to me that Marvin Agustin has found the girl he wants to spend the rest of his life with, a very charming medical student. When will he proudly show her off to the public? True love cannot be hidden for long.

I think Lani Misalucha has the most powerful voice among all our local divas. There is no song that she cannot give justice to. But it would make her soar even more if she will have a signature song so she won't have to keep on doing Streisand and other legends. Let's hear more of the Lani Misalucha trapped inside those vocal chords while doing Streisand and other legends.

Personal

KUDOS to my mom for the Lifetime Achievement Award that the Star Awards for Television will be honoring her with this Saturday.

Originality and credibility are my mom's trademarks, two things sorely missing in some talk show hosts these days.

Hey, Ma! God's yet another way of telling you that after your crucial operation, life just does not go on. It gets better!

Saranghamneda!

Happy birthday to one guy in my life who's neither my lover nor my brother but who exceeds that—Albert Nocum! We may never find what we're looking for, but what the heck? The fun we have as we go searching together makes it all worthwhile.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

What drives 'Direk' Erik Matti to make movies

From page A28

ies has ever nominated Matti for a best director award.

Last year, the Urian cited his "Dos Ekis" for best production design, best cinematography, best editing, best musical score, and even best actor (Mark Anthony Fernandez) but not Matti himself who pieced all these elements together.

His meticulous production design for "Pedro Penduko II" and Larry Manda's cinematography in "Sa Huling Paghihintay" were also snubbed. Very much like Scorsese, the Hollywood director

whose works are always lauded but who has never won an Oscar for directing.

"He's a director with a great visual taste," says resident cinematographer JA Tadena who worked with Matti on "Dos Ekis," "Prosti," and their newest collaboration, the Richard Gomez-Aubrey Miles starrer, "Una't Huli."

Those who have seen Matti's newest movie say one thing in common. The young director has definitely "matured."

Critics' advice

"I've taken the critics' advice to use another writer and not to do the writing myself," Matti says, smiling. "I've gotten Roy Iglesias to mostly write Sig's (Sanchez) story. Hopefully, they see beyond the style and beyond the beautiful colors and the camera work and even the strong technical aspects of the movie."

Indeed, Matti got rid of most of the technical pizzazz that has been the trademark of his movies. One thing which he obviously did away with from the start of the filming of "Prosti" was the smoke-machine that had been giving his earlier movies the dark, cramped, Manila look. Gone also were his wonderful compositions and sweeping shots and heavy crane shots that have become his signature and which other young filmmakers have been trying to emulate.

He admits that he is now more conscious of his camera movements. His new mantra goes: "Is it beauty for the sake of beauty or only when it's really necessary?"

For someone who has started the influx of young filmmakers to the mainstream, Matti thinks the current batch of directors are committing some of the mistakes he committed

when he was starting.

"I'm scared just before I see their movies because their works might be putting style over substance. I myself made that mistake early on with my other movies."

"But what I'm really scared of is the influence of MTV over the narrative. Nahihirapan sila to fuse all the elements of filmmaking together and use these to tell their story. So much so that when you look at the movie, it's one long MTV that lacks intent and focus."

"The good thing is, with the young blood in, we are not stuck with the old norms of filmmaking. You're going to see something fresh, even just visually or technically."

Matti works with other young people like him. Cinematographer Tadena is 25, assistant directors Chona Batocoy and Ninay Castinlag are 33 and 26, respectively, production designer Adrian Torres is 34, art director Richard Somes and his art department staff members Donald, Ian, Rashem, and Nonoy are all 25, writer Sanchez is 27, and award-winning editor Vito Cajili is 29.

"Maybe people won't even care about what drives me to make films," Matti says in a text message in the wee hours. "It's the drive to tell stories that I feel the audience will finally love, identify with, or just be exposed to. For viewers to understand the human psyche, to be enlightened by an insight, or to realize a universal truth that they haven't been confronted with is enough for me as a filmmaker."

"Getting the idea across and making the viewers give a damn about it is another story. That's something I will forever be pursuing."

Karl Sebastian, 26, is a freelance writer and an independent filmmaker.

Jefz Cafe marks 10th year tonight

JEFZ Cafe scores a perfect 10 on Oct. 10, when it marks its 10th year in business.

It will be a night of drinking, singing and dancing, as Jefz's regular performers present a special show to treat the cafe's loyal patrons and customers to an unforgettable night of fun and entertainment.

Highlight of the week-long celebration is the show of a special guest on Oct. 12, Saturday, 9 p.m.

Food and drinks will overflow and good music will rock the place. Party all night at Jefz Cafe at 1811 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila. Call 524-8641.



'JAZZ FOR A CAUSE'

First-rate musicians Don Randi and Quest arrived yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to do a benefit show, "Jazz for a Cause," tonight at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom. The artists will perform to inspire the out-of-school youths to pursue careers in the performing arts. They will also conduct free music clinics to upgrade the skills of Filipino music students and musicians to make them globally competitive. The gala dinner concert will have Regine Velasquez and Richard Merk as special guests. Tomorrow, Oct. 11, Jano Gibbs will join Don Randi and Quest at the De La Salle Zobel in Ayala Alabang. On Saturday, Oct. 11, the group will perform at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque. A special lounge performance will be held at the Live Station in West Avenue Oct. 16. For inquiries, call 484-0113 or 524-6977.

ROGER MARGALLO

Blackbird...

From page A28

Bar at the Hyatt Hotel, Cafe Alvarado, Tavern on the Square and Sanctuary, among others.

Blackbird was in a class all its own.

Merk recalls: "We would extend our set by a couple more hours because we were having a good time."

Part of the good times was being ahead of their time.

Lesaca relates: "Richard initiated this movement of rearranging popular songs. We turned the Beatles' 'Blackbird' into a 'rockier' version. That was a successful move for us."

Incidentally, the song became the band's name.

Merk shares that when the band was performing as a guest in an ABS-CBN show, the band didn't have a name yet. He says, "We were asked about our band name. We talked it over outside the studio and picked Blackbird without any second thoughts."

Such was the band's popularity that even fellow artists would go to Calesa Bar to jam with them.

Merk and Lesaca remember jamming with the likes of Vernie Verga, Jacqui Magno and Tots Tolentino.

It also helped that the band members were multi-instrumentalists themselves.

"I remember singing lead vocals and then playing sax and guitar," Lesaca recalls. "The members would switch instruments when the occasion called for it."

"Technically and musically, the band was really good. It was made up of individuals who were outstanding musicians on their own. We gelled as a team."

"What was unique about our time?" he adds. "It was a period of great music, music with a lot of meaning."

On Oct. 12 and Oct. 19, both Saturdays, that period of great music is making a comeback as Blackbird performs at Merk's Bar Bistro in Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Says Merk, who owns the bistro, "This is actually a reunion of Blackbird's music. We are bringing back the time when great music was the main attraction."

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ODEON	THE TOUCH
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TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATWAN MO LAUNGT KO
TIMES	SCORBY DOO / STUART LITTLE 2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	HUBAD NA MULTO
REMAR-2	LOLLIPOP

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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-6	BESTMAN
CINEMA-7	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CINEMA-8	HUBAD NA MULTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
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3	LOLLIPOP
4	BESTMAN
5	MR. DEEDS
6	THE TOUCH
7	BLOOD WORK
8	THE TUXEDO

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4	BLOOD WORK
5	THE TUXEDO
6	BESTMAN
7	LOLLIPOP
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2002

ENTERTAINMENT

A27

Las Vegas prepares for Society of Seven

TALENT times seven.

That is the perfect way to describe any musical performance by the "Society of Seven" or SOS. Although the group hails from the land of grass skirts and leis, the Society of Seven does more than hula.

The group changes colors throughout every performance, with their selection of blues, ballads, impersonations, a bit of Broadway, excerpts from the latest onscreen animation and a generous dash of laughter.

On some evenings, SOS would do an impression of the "three tenors" and perform a medley of familiar songs.

On other nights, they would wow the audience with a Beatles parody, an Elvis act, Village People number and some more Broadway blast-off.

So whether it be a sweet Hawaiian love song or a snappy rendering of an upbeat standard, SOS continues to bring new meaning to the word "variety."

Bert Nievera ran into the group in Reno in 1968. After doing a guest stint with them, he eventually became an official SOS member exactly a year after.

In 1976, Nievera decided to go solo and was replaced by another Filipino talent, Jun Polistico.

To date, the group is composed of

Tony Ruvivar, the idea man; Hoku Low, the voice; instrumentalist Wayne Wakai; heartthrob Randy Abellar; arranger Roy Guerzo; and two Fil-American balladeers Gary Bautista and Bert Sagum, the unpredictable spontaneous comic.

Revivar, the creative thinker, is responsible for what is seen and heard. He plays the guitar and delights the audience with his earthy voice.

Low's romantic mellow Hawaiian falsetto is capable of versatile vocal gymnastics; he plays bass and horns. Shrieks, screams and excitement blend well with every performance of drummer-percussionist Abellar, while Guerzo can play two to three synthesizers all at once. He arranges the unique synthesized sounds of the group and also arranges for the 66-piece Honolulu Symphony Orchestra yearly and does their Waikiki Shell concert with them.

Wakai is loved because of his ability to play the guitar, keyboards and saxophone.

Bautista will get everyone's feet stomping with his energetic and stirring versions of Broadway tunes and Sinatra's hits.

Sagum plays the percussion, dances and leads the SOS laugh brigade.

"If I could see only one live show in Hawaii, SOS would be it," says Joe Moore of Kohn-TV News.

Even Hawaii Governor Benjamin Cayetano is an avid SOS fan and calls the group "one of Hawaii's greatest living treasures."

The Society of Seven is considered the "champ of Waikiki nightlife" and has been playing in Waikiki's Outrigger Hotel's Main Showroom for more than 30 years now.

Starting October this year, however, the most daring, most ambitious and most creative group in Hawaii will go full swing at Las Vegas. SOS recently signed a \$1.5 million two-year contract to perform at the main showroom of the much sought-after Aladdin.

SOS is literally going places. In December, the country will be treated to a series of acts from radio, cabaret, vaudeville, classics, film and stage. The show is a rare blend of superb musicianship, classy vocals and clever humor which guarantees a smashing night-out.

So wherever SOS is, the applause goes on, not to ever stop. Hopefully, not even here in the Philippines.

For ticket inquiries and fund-raising show, call Emir Productions at 747-2130.



SOCIETY OF SEVEN. Continues to bring new meaning to the word "variety."

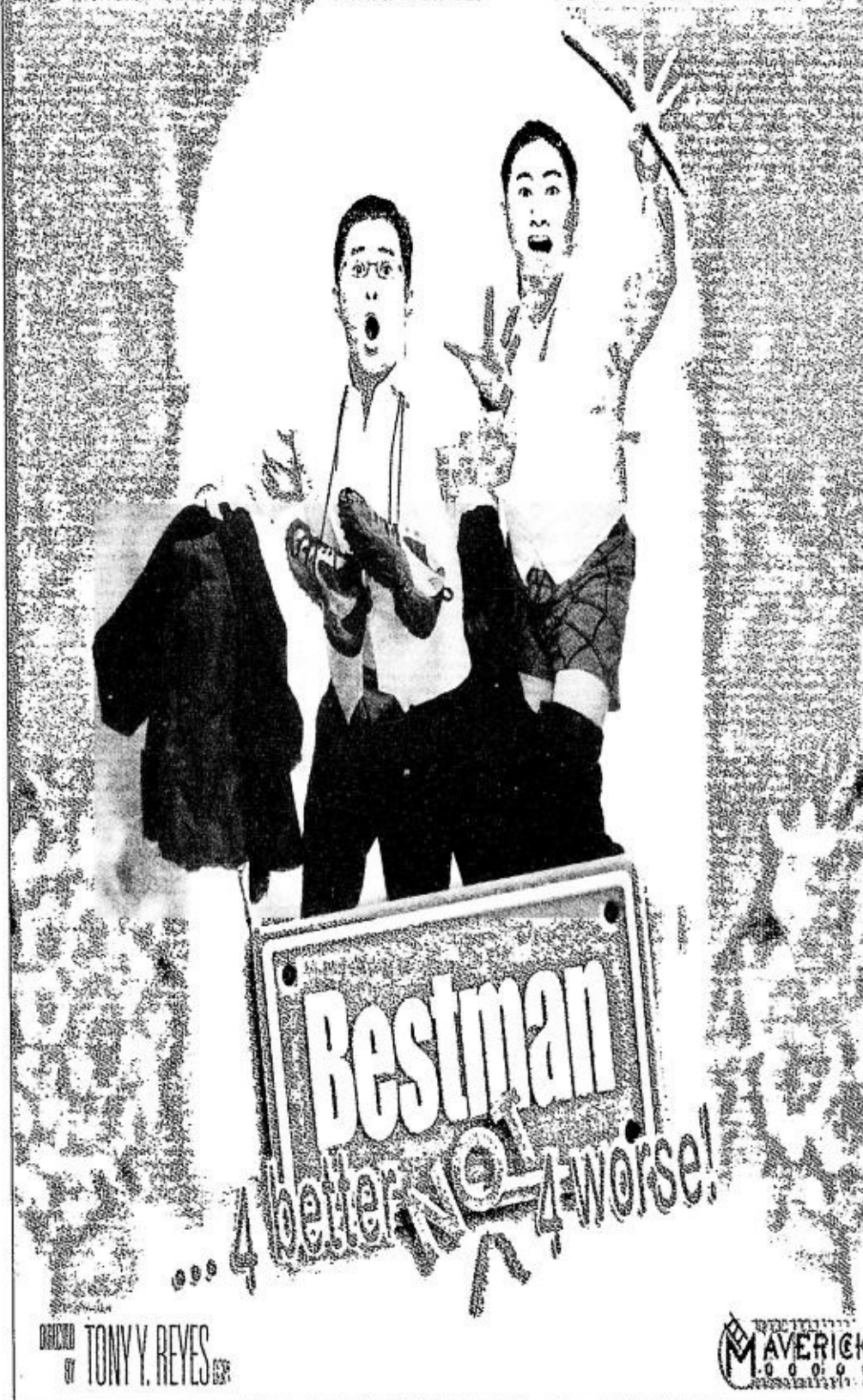
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Emceeing, hosting workshops

"There is no such thing as take two in emceeing and hosting," says Butch Albarracin, the country's leading educator and trainer in the field of entertainment.

"The moment you are in front of the audience, you're on," he adds.

Albarracin will conduct the "Emceeing and Hosting Lab," Oct. 13 and 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City and another on Oct. 19 and 20 at the Cebu Midtown Hotel in Cebu City.

Albarracin, founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines, Inc., is known in the music and entertainment industry for having trained unknown individuals who eventually became singing stars such as Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Roselle Nava, Cooky Chua, Ima Castro, Kyla and four "Miss Saigon" actresses.

Others took another route to stardom like Donita Rose, Asunta de Rossi, Maricar de Mesa, Roxanne Barcelo ("Click" of GMA 7) and Patricia Ismael ("Whattamen" on ABS-CBN).

The "Emceeing and Hosting Lab" is open to individuals who wish to develop their emceeing and hosting skills.

The two-day workshop covers the difference between emceeing and hosting, spels development and delivery (what to say and how to say it), what to do on-stage, developing wit and creating punchlines, ad-libbing, opening and closing spels, introduction techniques, confidence-building exercises, co-emceeing arrangements and music to enhance emceeing.

Now on its seventh run, the "Emceeing and Hosting Lab" is organized by the Learning Access (Learnax), a division of the Center for Pop Music Philippines at 73 Ermin Gracia St., Cubao, Quezon City.

For details, call 723-9373/727-5293 or 411-7310.

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MTRCB RATING PG-13

Laugh, fall in love!
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Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems. When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited. Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him. After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*. It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.

Discover Art Film GREENBELT 1
BARIQ, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NOW SHOWING!

STORYTELLING
Selma Blair, Leo Fitzpatrick, Paul Giamatti, John Goodman, Julie Hegerthy Directed by Todd Solondz
Storytelling plays between fantasy and reality. The first part, "Fiction," observes creative writing students and their amorous adventures. In the second, "Nonfiction," an aspiring documentary filmmaker follows the ups and downs of a dysfunctional suburban family. Official Selection, New York Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

SKYFILMS

Discover Art Film GREENBELT 1
BARIQ, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NOW SHOWING

Starring: Alex D. Linz, Robert Carradine, Brooke Anne Smith; Directed by: Tim Hill

Max Keeble is a seventh grader who is bullied by everyone in school. When he finds out he's moving to a new city, he turns the table on all the people who have ever picked on him, only to find out he's not moving after all.

Award: Best Supporting Actress (Brooke Anne Smith) - Young Artist Awards, U.S.A.

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

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2 THE TOUCH	2 THE TUXEDO 1:15, 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	2 BLOODWORK
3 MR. DEEDS	3 BIRTHDAY GIRL	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT. 11-12, 18-19, 25-26	THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	3 MR. DEEDS
4 BESTMAN	4 MR. DEEDS		FRAILTY 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25, 11:30	4 0
	5 THE TOUCH		0 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	5 FRAILTY

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

What drives 'Direk' Erik Matti to make movies

By Karl Sebastian
Contributor

SWEDISH FILM genius Ingmar Bergman, 80-plus, got fed up with filmmaking and left the scene at the peak of his career because, according to him, it made him a "whore." Filipino director Charles Erik Matti, 30, got fed up with his former movie company, left, and, at the peak of his career, made a film about "whores."

The comparison ends there. Matti comes out of almost a year's absence and creates "Prosti" for Regal Films. Critics have called it "his best and finest work so far."

This is not to say that Matti's first five films were flimsy. They were all moneymakers but were different from what the Filipino audience has been used to. Producers feared that his next serving might be too experimental for the Pinoy taste and so they decided to put him in the freezer.

"I admit that when I'm not really sure about my theme or my storytelling, I dazzle the audience with wonderful production designs or wonderful camera angles or texture and colors," he says. "But when 'Prosti' came, I really told myself, 'Erik, stop it, stop it, stop it. Don't move the camera anymore and just deal with the basic story. Just look at them with a rock-steady camera!'"

"Prosti" was born when Erik and scriptwriter Siegfried Barros-Sanchez felt they were not getting a fair deal in their contracts.



MATTI. A director with "a great visual taste."

Having worked together on the movies "Alas Dose," "Dos Ekis," and "Likido" (the latter has been put on ice), Sanchez pulled out one of his concepts which he had been pitching to the production firm where he was under contract for two-and-a-half years. Initially entitled "Bugaw" and set in a rural location, the title was changed to "Prosti" when Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde decided to heed Matti's insistence that he be allowed to show his wares. The change in title was also part of Monteverde's launch of its

newest sex symbol, Aubrey Miles, a one-time TV and commercial personality who is rumored to be taking over Assunta de Rossi's throne in the Regal backyard.

Challenge

"Ganti namin sa lahat ng mga konsepto naming ilang beses na dini-disapprove," Matti says.

Initially, he wanted to do a "Boogie Nights" kind of movie, with a collage of characters. He ended up doing a small movie after watching Wong Kar Wai's "In the Mood for Love" and Todd Solondz's stunning

indie work "Happiness."

"The challenge I posed to myself when I did 'Prosti' was to do a really small movie with very, very honest performances from actors, to tell several stories at the same time and bring them together without sacrificing focus," Matti discloses.

And bring them together he did. He got very, very sincere and straightforward performances from veteran actors Racquel Villavicencio and Pinky Amador to complement the performances of Jay Manalo, Paolo Rivero, Hazel Espinosa, and Miles.

And when real support was needed, Matti, a Basic Acting professor at La Salle-Bacolod, called on his "Bacolod Mafia" (his staff and students) to provide acting assistance. What comes out are very true performances by no-name cast members who will put to shame a recent smorgasbord teen flick.

Humans

"Always, when we do a movie about prostitutes, it seems like prostitutes don't know how to pray, they're damned by God, they're doing what they do because of poverty, and that's always an excuse," Matti says. "In 'Prosti,' we don't tackle them as victims. Yes, they are victims but their lives don't revolve around their thinking that they're just victims. They go on with their lives, they have ambitions, they fall in love, they have fun, they go to Mass, they joke around, and they also fight. They're human beings, not just caricatures or cartoon characters. They're real people just like us. They have real problems just like us. They also want to own a cell phone just like a normal student does."

"It's more human, less cliché, more honest, and less politically-correct."

Gallaga

"The movie was looking at it from the point of view of a filmmaker," he adds. "The story is about me and my industry."

Matti first took the tempting ride to filmmaking about 10 years

ago when he worked as an assistant director to Peque Gallaga on "Vampira," an Anjanette Abayari-starrer which bombed at the tills.

Matti was a student of Gallaga in the gifted filmmaker's yearly workshops at DLSU-Bacolod. The college dropout of the Colegio de San Agustin dabbled in all the aspects of filmmaking at Gallaga's set, either as script continuity man, art director, scriptwriter, production manager, even actor.

In 1997, when he was 26, he got his biggest break when his mentor recommended him to Viva Films to direct the sexy "Scorpio Nights 2," which became controversial. The rest is history.

He did one hit after another, breaking traditional forms of making films and bringing a professional side to the art he once said he'd "live and die" engaging in.

We have high regards for Matti's piecing together of all the aspects that are essential to a 35mm full-length format. His production design can be felt 360 degrees around the set, his camera work moves the story to where it should go, his lighting sets the exact mood needed for each moment, his blocking has always been credited as his forte, his lines are natural, and his stories are very simple yet unconventional.

Although two of his films, "Scorpio Nights 2" and "Dos Ekis," were nominated for technical excellence awards, none of the country's award-giving bod-

MATTI/A25

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JAMMING. Jazz artists Richard Merk (left) and violinist John Lesaca.

Blackbird flies again

FOR FANS of the '80s local band scene, watching the band known as Blackbird was always an event.

Formed in 1983, Blackbird was composed of vocalist Richard Merk, instrumentalist John Lesaca, the late bassist Sonny Tolentino, guitarists Egay Avenir

and Dong Zamora, keyboardist Mario Elepaño, drummer Jun Viray, and percussionist Uly Avante.

Blackbird flew high in its heyday, attracting fans with their top 40s and Latin-jazz-rock sets in legendary venues such as Calesa

BLACKBIRD/A25



OAKLEY DEVOTEES. Actors Diether Ocampo (left) and Bernard Palanca.

Celebrities introduce Oakley's newest

OAKLEY, which has changed the way the world looks at eyewear, and more, will introduce on Oct. 16 its newest innovations in apparel and footwear.

Oakley followers and devotees Diether Ocampo, Jake Roxas, Victor Neri, Bernard Palanca, thrill seekers and TV's "Game Plan" hosts Tricia Chiongbian, Akiko Thompson, Carlo Ledesma and Rovilson Fernandez and female racing champ Gaby de la Merced will be featured in the exclusive, by-invitation only affair on the 40th floor of the Yuchenco Tower, RCBC Plaza.

Local models will help introduce Oakley's newest in the sports and lifestyle market, in-

cluding Oakley sports apparel, equipment, watches, and performance footwear.

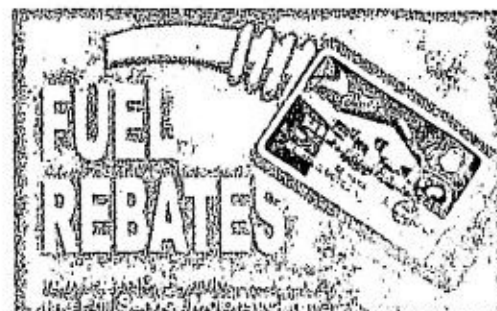
The US-based company was recently included in Forbes Magazine's "Top 30 Luxury Brands" in the world.

Oakley constantly innovates to defy convention and mediocrity, fusing science, sculpture, and art. Athletes will always be Oakley's focus, but its following also includes many people who are not athletes.

With its brand of "Mad Science" and creative engines in full throttle, Oakley is about to unleash innovations in sports apparel, equipment, and watches, as well as in performance footwear.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



GDP growth seen down to 4% in third quarter

THE ECONOMY grew close to 4 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, down from 4.5 percent in the second, largely due to weaker agricultural output, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

Asked by reporters about the third quarter economic performance, Camacho said gross domestic product (GDP) growth was likely to have slowed down to around 4 percent. In the third quarter last year GDP rose 2.9 percent.

He noted that agricultural output, which makes up roughly 20 percent of GDP, was affected by the typhoons that usually afflict

the country in the third quarter.

Despite the expected onset of the El Niño dry weather pattern in the fourth quarter and weaker US economic activity, Camacho said the government remained on track to meet its full year growth target.

"I am confident that we will be within our projected range of 4.0-4.5 percent (GDP growth) this year," he said.

Continued manufacturing sector growth and robust domestic demand would help offset some of the agricultural weakness and ensure the full-year growth target would be attained, he said.

The three months to June GDP rise was the fastest in five quar-

ters and analysts had said they did not expect that rate to have been maintained.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said an economic team was working to prevent a "runaway" deficit for the year and ensure the government would meet its growth targets during the period.

The deficit swelled to P144 billion as of August, already overshooting a full-year target of P130 billion, due to weak revenue collections.

A deficit of P140 billion to P145 billion is still okay because we keep interest and inflation rates low, Macapagal said at a luncheon with the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines.

Macapagal said her economic managers were working hard to keep the deficit within that range.

The Philippine economy should be able to survive the slowdown in the global economy, with efforts being focused on sustaining growth by boosting domestic demand.

Earlier this year, the International Monetary Fund said the Philippines must rein in its budget deficit if it was to achieve its growth target for the year. It said that it was necessary to correct the situation to "ensure that economic conditions remain favorable."

Reuters, AFP

PLDT board 'united' behind Pangilinan

THE BOARD of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said it remained "fully united" behind PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan, dismissing reports of a "boardroom brawl" as nothing more than "irresponsible acts of some sectors."

In a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PLDT corporate secretary Ma. Lourdes Rausa-Chan, on behalf of the 11 other board members, said they remained united in their stand to further boost PLDT's good performance under Pangilinan's leadership.

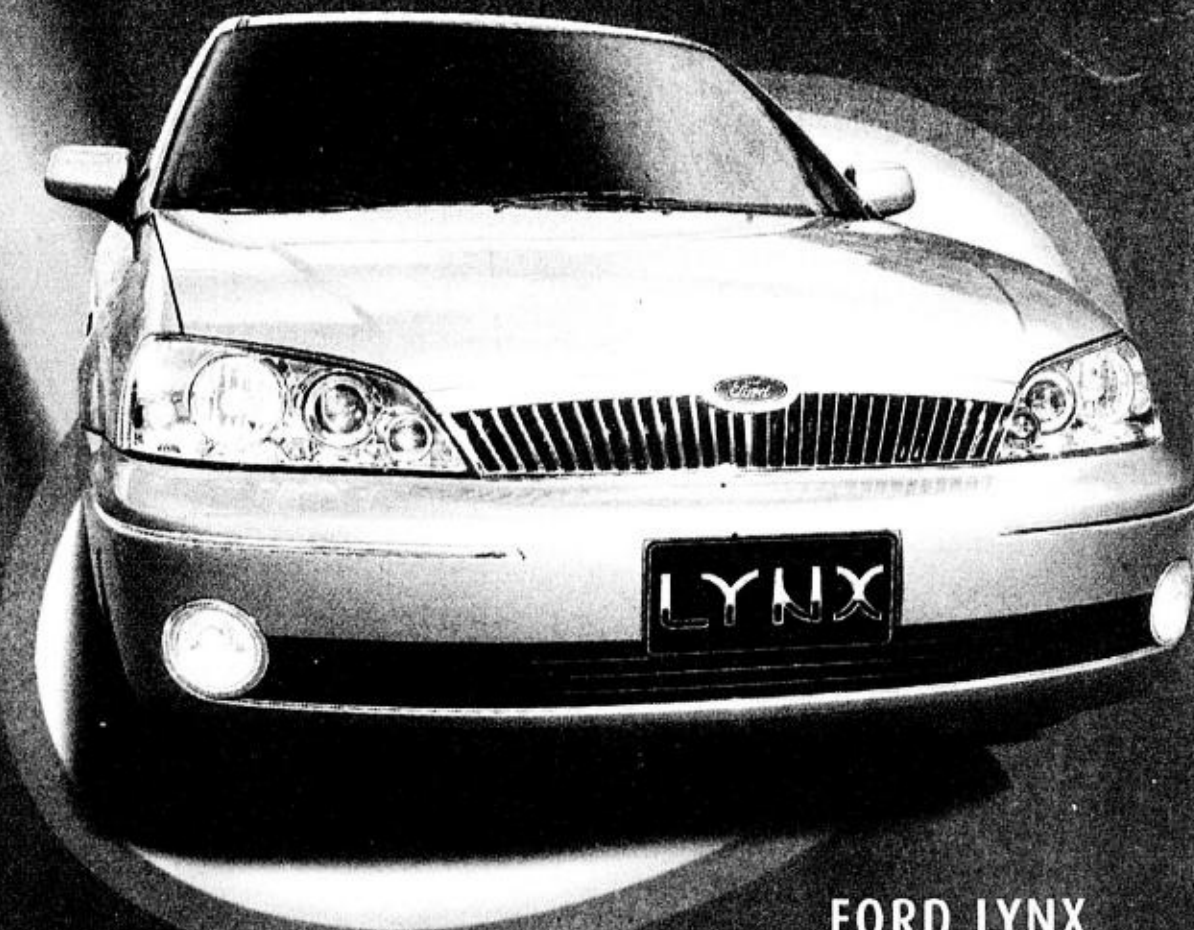
"We remain fully united in our continuing support of the company's president and chief executive, Manuel V. Pangilinan, and his leadership and efforts to revitalize and strengthen

the operations and financial position of the company," she said.

The letter, said to be authorized by the majority of the PLDT board, was in reaction to a report about a boardroom brawl brewing at PLDT and a coup d'etat being hatched by First Pacific Co. Ltd.

The 13-member PLDT board is composed of PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco, Pangilinan, Ray Espinosa, Helen Yuchengco-Dee, Social Security System representative Gorazon dela Paz, Pedro Roxas, Napoleon Nazareno, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, Albert del Rosario, Ricardo Zarate, Chan, and NTT Communications representative Taketo Suzuki and Mit-

PLDT/B2



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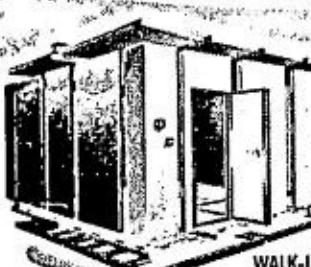
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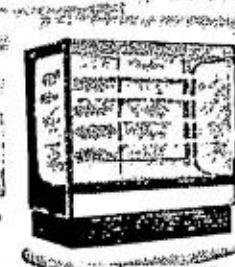
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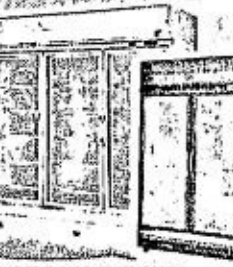
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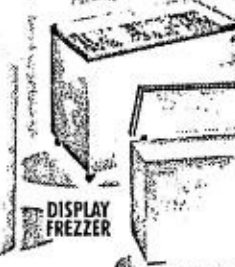
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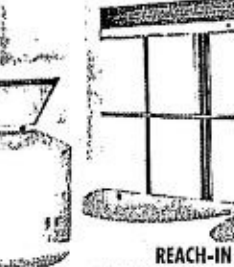
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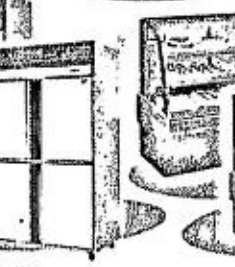
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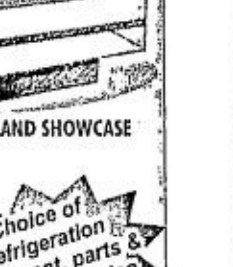
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BSP to keep hands off key rates, reserve requirement

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday vowed it would not use any of its monetary tools to prop up the peso, which remained volatile due to external factors, particularly the mounting tension in the Middle East.

The peso strengthened slightly yesterday to 52.70 to \$1 from 52.72 on Tuesday. The region's most influential currency, the Japanese yen, also recovered to 123.88 to a dollar from 124.29 the other day.

Traders said the central bank sold another \$10 million yesterday to keep the peso stable at current levels. The BSP has been unloading \$10 million to \$15 million daily since Monday to help

ease the pressure on the peso.

"The BSP was selling dollars until closing time yesterday," said a trader from a foreign bank.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank would not touch its overnight rates and the reserve requirement on banks to buoy the local currency's value.

"I don't think there is a need for any monetary response at this point to help the peso. We are still confident that the peso will recover this quarter," said Tetangco.

In the previous years, the central bank resorted to adjusting its overnight rates or its reserve requirement on banks to boost the peso.

Last year, for instance, the monetary authorities raised the mandatory deposits of banks from 16 percent to 20 percent which was brought back to 16 percent only in the first quarter this year.

The overnight borrowing and lending rates were down to a decade-low of 7 percent and 9.25 percent, respectively, since March.

Since the BSP had already shifted to inflation-targeting as a framework of its monetary policy this year, the Monetary Board said its decisions would focus on the new mandate of keeping prices stable. In the past, monetary decisions and policies were anchored on keeping the local currency steady.

And now...Star of the shoo

RECENTLY, local firm Destiny Cable received a letter from foreign company Star Group. It said Star does not love Destiny anymore. Shoo! Be gone!

Star just broke up their relationship of six years for a profound reason. And that was, "ah, basta, I don't like you anymore!" Maybe Star didn't like the face of a Destiny security guard or something.

In the language of the globalized IT, Star is a content provider. It sells the rights for showing various television channels to cable companies all over Asia like Destiny.

Owner of the Star is world media mogul Rupert Murdoch, the Australian who is based in New York, and the owner of Destiny is the Solid Group of Elena Lim, which ventured into the cable business as a bright idea of Elena's eldest son David.

Even if you have only the IQ of a congressman, which I don't wish on anyone else, it's easy to figure out who the Goliath here is. It wasn't David who cut off its head.

THAT action of Star, according to the National Telecommunications Commission, was against public interest. It was unfair, the NTC said, and it would promote monopoly.

Whether or not the NTC referred to the main competitor of Destiny, which is Sky Cable of the Lopez group, is hard to say. I only know that Sky had yet to pay Star almost P200 million which Sky owed Star for a long, long time.

The NTC simply said, in effect, Star would dictate what local cable companies could live and die in the Philippines. We have hundreds of them, mostly small ones.

The brave stand of NTC, by the way, came courtesy of Commissioner Eliseo Rio Jr. and Deputy Commissioner Armijane Borje. The third commissioner, Kathleen Heceta, is out of the country. I'm sure she would have taken the same stand. I love them already.

Still, Star can ignore the NTC. What hold does the NTC have over Star? It's the same hold, I guess, as Pareng Dubya's over Pareng Osama or Pareng Saddam.

ANYWAY, Star also needs the power and authority of the NTC. This is the policeman of the telecommunications industry here, but of course minus the role of the police in kidnapping and gambling. The NTC protects the business of Star against piracy.

The NTC would not say it, but my info is that, if push must come to shove, the NTC can simply close its eyes to all the piracy of Star channels by all the hundreds of small cable companies here, if not even encourage it. Let's see what Star will do then.

Also, Congress is still trying to craft the law on cable TV. What trouble some low IQ congressmen can create for Star, is hard to say. I'm just sure it's bigtime trouble. Go ahead, ask the Piatco guys.

RUNNING the local Destiny, as I said, is the young David Lim. He has paid for the connection of Destiny with Goliath, este, Star faithfully in the past six years.

A certain Charles Pollard is the regional director of Star. I don't know where Pollard picked up his morals and ethics, but in business, what he did is simply not done.

Just like that, without much ado, thank you, the upright Pollard canceled the five prime channels of Star which Destiny carried since it started business in 1996.

Those were the sports network ESPN, the National Geographic, and the three Star

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

channels, namely, Star Movies, Star Sports, and Star World.

As consolation prize for Destiny, Star ruled that Destiny can get the other channels. It would not have been so bad if the channels were not in Chinese and in Hindi.

SOME people would argue that Destiny should be happy. Hey, the entire population of China, or some 1.1 billion people, understands Mandarin.

Plus almost a billion people more, or the entire population of India, who probably understand Hindi one way or another.

In other words, Destiny has a potential huge market of more than 2 billion people. Unfortunately, its business happens to be in English and Tagalog speaking Metro Manila.

Well, I can only say that Destiny is still lucky. You see, Star could have decided to give Destiny some channels in the komiks language of Barok.

WHAT Star had in mind, therefore, is also hard to say. Based on the NTC stand, nevertheless, it seems Star was favoring another cable company in Metro Manila.

From what I hear, Sky Cable of the Lopez group still owes Star almost P200 million. Star cannot hope to collect from Sky for a mighty long time.

Sky also owes a lot of money to the banks. They take first priority over whatever money Sky can get its hands on. All collection of sky goes straight to the banks.

Know what—Sky has a new CEO. He is a Jamaican-American. I don't know if he also happens to have a connection somewhere in New York, eh, mayt!

ONLY two factors are behind the fuel price increase. They are the weak exchange rate of the peso against the dollar, and the increase in oil prices in the world market.

Because of higher oil prices, we pay more—in US dollars—for just the same exact amount of oil we buy from abroad.

Then, thanks to the deteriorating exchange rate of the peso, we pay still more, when we buy it as gasoline or LPG and pay for it in pesos.

Surely we all suffer from the increase in fuel prices. But a lot of us also suffer much more than others, particularly when it comes to the price of LPG.

The rich can afford any price of fuel. Why do you think a lot of them buy cars so big, they use up gas equivalent to the take home pay of five minimum wage earners.

THOSE who have barely enough to survive, when every centavo counts, must suffer more. Every additional centavo for LPD comes from money for food.

And it's all because the US President loves to talk about war. Of course his country does not suffer as much as we do here.

Most people in rich countries may bitch about the warrior US President but the thing is, they can still afford the increase in the price of fuel.

And do we have any voice on the matter? We have no voice because we are poor. And because we have no voice, it only makes us even poorer. Thanks, George!

Destiny gets NTC support

By Abigail L. Ho

SUBSCRIBERS of Destiny Cable Inc. may still have a chance to see the new season of the National Basketball Association in November as the National Telecommunications Commission throws its support behind Destiny's effort to keep Star TV programs in its lineup.

In a letter to Star Regional Private Ltd. regional director Charles Pollard, the NTC stressed that "a program provider must make their program channel offerings available to all industry members" saying that doing otherwise could result in unfair competition.

"For this reason, Star Group is requested to allow and/or authorize Destiny Cable Inc. to continue carrying Star's programs, in the same manner it treats other (cable) service providers under similar circumstances," former NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in his letter.

In a letter sent on Oct. 3, Pollard informed Destiny that its contract for Star TV's top five channels—ESPN, Star Sports, Star Movies, Star World and National Geographic—would no longer be renewed when it expires on Oct. 14. The Star TV executive did not give any reason.

Pollard, however, added that Destiny could still carry Star TV's twelve other lower-tier programs even after the Oct. 14 expiration of the Destiny-Star TV contract.

PLDT board ...

From page B1
suhiro Takase.

During Pangilinan's almost four-year term as PLDT head, the letter said, the company saw a notable increase in revenues and net income, as well as a successful entry into the world of converged communications.

"PLDT's consolidated profits for the first half of the year doubled to P2.8 billion on consolidated revenues of almost P40 billion. It has also become a more formidable telecommunications firm with cellular leader Smart Communications Inc. as its subsidiary," it added.

Reacting to reports about attempts to oust

Destiny's chair and Solid Group Inc. chair emeritus Elena Lim said only "some unseen hand" could push Star TV to suddenly sever its good, six-year business relationship with Destiny.

"This is very shocking. What they did is far from the norm in business. They can't just say, 'this is it,' without any discussion. This is underhanded and highly irregular. It's very clear that their cutting us off will favor some other entities," she told reporters in a briefing yesterday.

Lim, however, declined to mention which entities stood to benefit from the sudden pull-out, although the industry grapevine had been buzzing with talks that Star TV entered into an agreement with the SkyCable-Home Cable tandem, Beyond Cable.

Star TV officials were unavailable for comment as of press time.

Meanwhile, Philippine Cable Television Association president J. Manuel Dabao backed Destiny's fight to retain Star TV's premium programs as a sudden pullout could hurt the cable industry.

PCTA won't tolerate exclusivity of contracts, especially for programs that have been in the industry for so long. Star TV is a major program provider so people are already used to having their programs on their cable line-ups. We'll wait for a satisfactory answer from Star TV up to (Wednesday) afternoon. We'll plan our next move after that," he said.

Pangilinan, highly placed sources said that such a move at this point in time would not make any sense as PLDT stood to lose rather than gain from it.

"It's impossible to get a majority to oust him as CEO or director. Who is supposed to benefit from this move? This whole coup d'etat story sounds like something out of a telenovela," the source said.

PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo Jimenez Jr. seconded this and said a Pangilinan ouster would only result in derailing the company's target to continue posting positive performance for the year and going forward.

Abigail L. Ho



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Ma. Virginia B. Quintos-Gonzalez
Program Director

Prof. Ma. Virginia B. Quintos-Gonzalez is a core faculty of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center. She specializes in development and design of management games, structured learning exercises, applications of Oriental philosophy to business management exercises. Over the years, she handled projects that are brought to the classroom as alternatives to cases. She is co-author of the book, "Family Corporation in Transition" and has written 50 cases and a

research paper on various subjects such as corporate strategy, total quality management, problem-solving, decision-making, human resource development, organizational development, and general management. Her specific areas of interest are learning organizations, management of change and family corporations. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of the Philippines (1983) and a Master in Business Administration from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (1992). She is currently enrolled in the Diploma Courses for Professional Counseling at the Center for Family Ministry at the Ateneo University.

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Who's really driving RP's auto policies?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

(Conclusion)

THE GOVERNMENT may have a concrete idea of where it wants the auto industry to go in a single Asean market, but it clearly has no coherent plan on how to get there.

A case in point is the recent reforms in the Motor Vehicle Development Program. The Department of Trade and Industry wants to ship out completely built-up units to Asean and other countries, yet it plans to slap a tax of up to 15 percent on Asian utility vehicles that most assemblers have wagged as the Philippines' strongest export bet.

The DTI wants to build a strong domestic base for vehicle assemblers to support their export thrust, yet it has been inutile in stopping the surge of used imports from the Subic special economic zone for the last three years.

A look at the rear-view mirror would show that the DTI is merely running true to form. The auto industry policy has been overhauled six times since the Progressive Manufacturing Program was adopted in 1973, five of which were made in the 1990s.

While it is set as a straight and narrow road on paper, the trade department's auto industry policy becomes a zigzag road upon implementation, with the twists and turns depending on the entry of a new assembler or a new tenant in Malacañang.

The auto industry policy has been "consistently inconsistent," according to one industry observer, because the implementation has been discretionary and plans are loosely interpreted.

This begs the question: Who is really behind the wheel and driving the country's auto industry policy? Is it the Americans who gripe that its gas-guzzling models are discriminated under the current tax system? Or the Japanese who want the government to push AUV for exports?

New tax system

The DTI insists that it is in the driver's seat, but it also admits that only with the full support of the industry can it push through with its tax reforms to prevent future debates once it files a bill in Congress.

The trade department is pushing for the rationalization of excise taxes by shifting valuation from engine displacement to sticker price to create a clear and stable policy framework and a level playing field to encourage exports.

The DTI will drop the tax-exempt status of AUVs, pickups and vans, while motorcycles, trucks and buses will continue to be excluded from the excise tax.

"The current tax system is complicated and has a lot of loopholes that has effectively eroded the government's tax revenue base. The new system is simplified, socialized and equitable," said Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II. This will finally end the unjust situation where only 30 percent of new vehicles sold pay taxes, he said.

Based on its progressive value-based tax system, the government plans to charge a 3-percent tax for all vehicles worth below P501,000; 15 percent for vehicles worth P1,001 million; 25 percent for vehicles worth below P1,501 million; 40 percent for vehicles worth below P2,001 million; and 100 percent for vehicles worth over P2 million.

The current tax schedule is 15 percent for vehicles with 1600-cc gas and 1800-cc diesel engines; 35 percent for those with 2-liter gas and 2.3-liter diesel engines; 50 percent for those with 2.7-liter gas and 3-liter diesel engines; and 100 percent for those with 2.7-liter gas and 3-liter diesel engines.

Opposition

Japanese assemblers have opposed the proposed new rates because these will add as much as 15 percent on the prices of AUVs, which currently sells at an average P650,000 each.

They claim that AUVs will only suffer unnecessarily, considering the government's supposed objective in undertaking reforms is to curb abuses in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's 10-seater rule, which exempts vehicles that can hold at least 10 individuals.

Both US and Japanese assemblers are guilty of adding jump seats in the back compartment of their sport-utility vehicles to evade taxes.

Japanese assemblers argue that Ford Motor Co., which has been unsuccessful in cracking their dominance of the local market, will benefit the most from the tax changes. Ford, in turn, contends that the changes merely levels the playing field by taking away the tax advantage of AUVs over passenger cars such as its Lynx sedan.

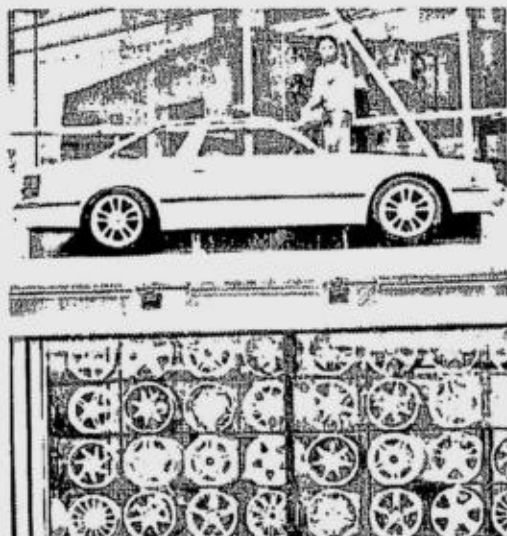
Second-hand imports

Japanese and American assemblers may be divided on the proposed tax reforms, but they are united in their plea to ban the importation of used, right-hand drive vehicles through Subic.

The DTI estimated that 52,000 second-hand imports were brought in from Subic last year, which was 70 percent of 76,670 brand-new units sold last year.

The department based its estimate on the wide gap between the number of vehicles registered with the Land Transportation Office last year and sales of brand new units during the same period.

More than a year after making public their loathing for the growing used vehicle trade, the President approved the DTI's call to ban the importation of used vehicles



A WORKER lifts a model car onto a display platform at a car accessories store. Auto parts makers are expected to survive once tariff walls are teared down starting next year.

except for select trucks and buses, heavy equipment, fire trucks and ambulances and units covered by the "Balikbayan Vehicle Import Program."

But the industry wants more than rhetoric, especially after it suffered a setback when the Olongapo Regional Trial Court dismissed its case seeking to bar the LTO from processing the registration papers of used and converted vehicles.

The industry maintains that CBU exports require a robust domestic sector unlike parts manufacturing. The auto parts sector will succeed even without a strong domestic base, as typified by Singapore, which has a booming auto parts export industry even though all cars on its streets are imported.

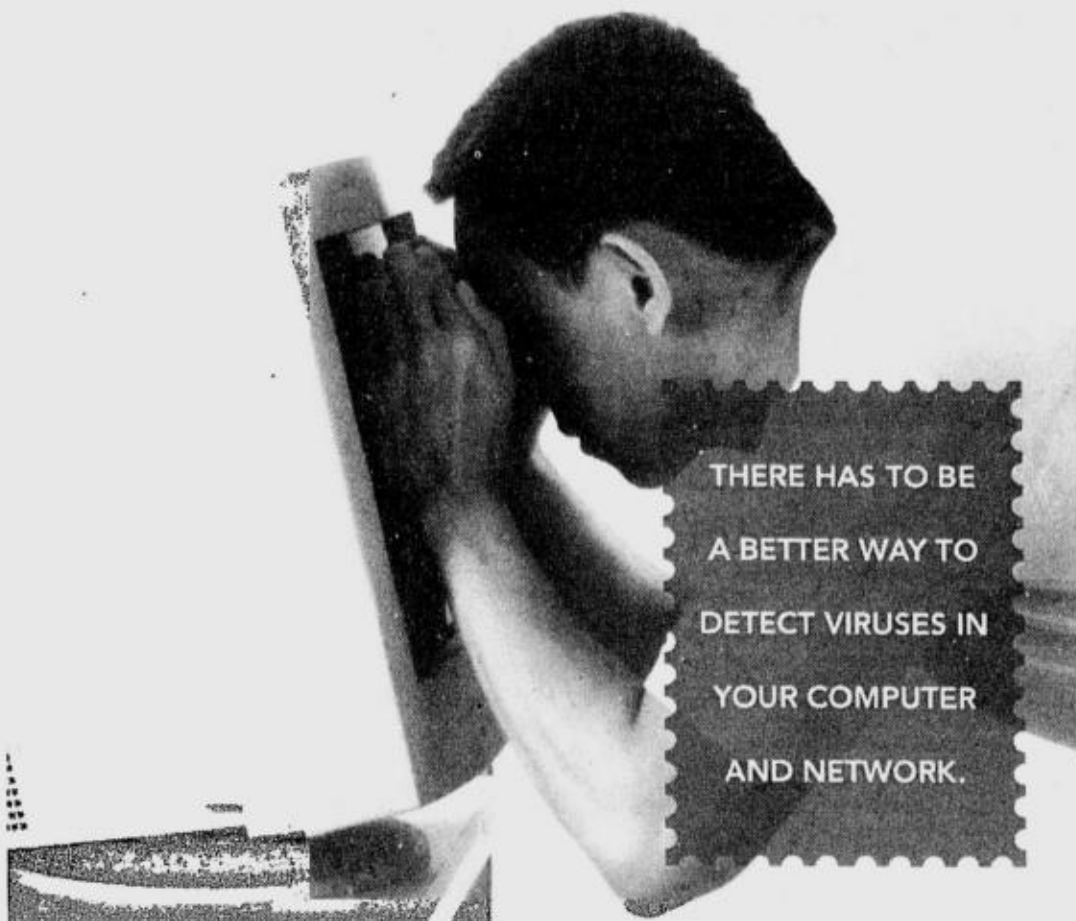
"It's non-negotiable. The government must stop second-hand vehicle imports if it wants to develop a domestic assembly industry," Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. senior vice president Serafin Pantaleon said. "We are the only country among 'Asean 4' that allows second-hand vehicles."

However, Subic importers have countered that their trade is giving consumers a great service by providing them with a cheaper alternative to expensive brand-new cars.

They maintain that the government has long neglected consumer's demand for cheaper vehicles by focusing industry policies to favor manufacturers.

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1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Biotechnology for Maximizing Agricultural Productivity (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Application of Ultrasound in Modern Swine Production / Practical Feeding Practices for Replacement Gilts and the Gestating Sows by: *Illinois Department of Agriculture / USLGE Swine Trade Mission* (Seminar Rm. 2)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

- Use of PBM as Fishmeal Replacement in Shrimp and Other Aquafeeds by: *National Renderers Association* (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Immunosuppression Caused by Mycotoxins and the Solutions by: *Agrimate, Inc.* (Seminar Rm. 2)

OCTOBER 11, 2002

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- Wind & Water Utilization: The INFARMCO Experience [a] Wind Power Utilization: Optimum Climate Control in Productivity Systems through Tunnel Ventilation [b] Wastewater Utilization: Maximum Resource Recovery via an Effective & Efficient Wastewater Treatment System (WTS) by: *The Infarmco Group* (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Recent Developments in Swine Manure Management by: *Agrispecialist, Inc.* (Seminar Rm. 2)

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Influence of Today's Environment on the Immune System of Intensively Reared Pigs by: *Vennaval, Inc./Alokorit* (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Open Forum on Swine Artificial Insemination by: *Jeida Farm Supply Corp.* (Seminar Rm. 2)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

- Feed Ingredients for Swine Diets: Nutrition Values / Problems Associated w/ Ingredient Storage & Handling / Establishing an Effective Genetic Improvement Program for Swine by: *Illinois Department of Agriculture/ USLGE Swine Trade Mission* (Seminar Rm. 1)

OCTOBER 12, 2002

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

- Product Packaging by: *Technology & Livelihood Resource Center* (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Grouping Culture in Net Cages by: *Santh Feeds Corp.* (Seminar Rm. 2)

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Management & Nutrition of the Piglet (Use of PRODUMIX Nucleus) by: *Cledacor Enterprises* (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Income for Life Through Mango Farming by: *Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corp.* (Seminar Rm. 2)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

- Modern Ag Biotechnology and DA Commercialization Guidelines by: *US Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service* (Seminar Rm. 1)
- Reviving Village-Level Poultry-Enterprise in the Philippines: The SASSO Vision by: *A.P. Inocencio Farms (Torres Farms)* (Seminar Rm. 2)

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FOUNDATION FOR RESOURCE LINKAGE AND DEVELOPMENT, INC.
3/F Administration Bldg., FTI Complex
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos. +63 2 838-4549, 838-4852,
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Email: frld@info.com.ph
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World Bank tells gov't to invest in IT to steer clear of new crisis

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE PHILIPPINES can help avert a future financial crisis by directing financial flows to its most productive sectors like information technology and communication, the World Bank said yesterday.

During the launch of a new World Bank study entitled "Can East Asia Compete? Innovation for Global Markets," World Bank country director for the Philippines Vance Pulley said the report highlighted the need to improve the country's banking system to ensure capital

flows to the most productive uses, including dynamic high technology firms.

"Strengthening corporate management, reviewing and reforming education programs and policies, as well as strengthening policies to promote openness and competition and the improvement of information and communication technologies capacities—these are some of the recommendations that the Philippines need to consider to have a highly innovative economy," Pulley said.

The study said East Asia could regain its economic dynamism and return to a position of global competitive eminence only if it would adopt a new approach centered on four key areas: building innovation capability; strengthening market in-

stitutions and business services; harnessing information and communication technologies to the fullest, and promoting openness.

In the case of the Philippines, Pulley said stronger corporate management through legal and financial institutions could shore up shareholder and property rights.

However, he said that reforms in education programs and policies could foster analytical skills and aptitude for innovation.

The study said a significant share of future growth in East Asia should be derived from the expansion of services, both traditional and new ones.

The study stressed that a strong services sector would facilitate industrial development.

Shares hold on to gains on technical recovery

SHARES held onto their gains to end higher yesterday on a technical recovery following six straight sessions of decline.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed up 0.5 percent at 1,081.27 after falling 2 percent on Tuesday and a total of 4.7 percent over the past six trading days.

"The market was oversold already, so a technical rebound was expected," said Astro del Castillo, director for the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"Bargain hunting managed to lift the market (but) investors remain reluctant to push up prices given the many concerns on global politics and the economy as well as domestic economic issues and corporate earnings prospects," said Spencer Yap of BPI Securities.

"The market is not out of the woods just yet (and) a recovery remains uncertain given that the market has yet to show strength in the current support range," he warned.

"Sentiment is still weak despite today's bargain-hunting,"

said Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities.

Blue-chip Ayala Land Inc. was the most actively traded stock, rising 1.9 percent to P5.40 on bargain hunting. The stock had fallen 5.4 percent over the past six sessions.

Ayala Land said it was in talks, along with businessman Jose Campos, with Metro Pacific Corp. for a possible investment in the latter's 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City central business district project.

Metro Pacific shares closed unchanged at 23 centavos.

Del Castillo said the market was not expected to sustain its gains, given its thin trade volume and uncertainties both domestically and overseas.

He cited the weak peso, the government's widening budget deficit and tensions in the Middle East.

"We're also not so bullish on third-quarter corporate earnings," said Del Castillo. "The stock market represents the pulse of the economy and right now it's not performing." *AP Reuters*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 9, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	46,400
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43	42.5	43	466,200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	11,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	28	28	17,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1	1	1	1	38,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32.5	31.5	32.5	342,200
Philippine National Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	1,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	5,800
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	7,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	945	950	945	950	130
San Life Financial Serv.	795	805	795	800	3,840
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.5	20.5	20	20	11,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	920,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	435	440	435	440	1,530
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	5,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.025	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	265	272.5	265	265	92,300
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	19,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	17.5	17	17.5	10,900
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28.5	27	27.5	200,100
Petrone Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.5	1.5	431,000
Salcom Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	26,857,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	300,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	55,000
William, Gothong & Aboltiz	3	3	3	3	27,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.2	2.14	2.14	57,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	25,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	52,000
RFM Corp.	0.81	1.2	0.81	0.84	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	103,300
San Miguel Corp. B	57	57	56.5	57	238,300
Vitacorp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	1,146,000
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	2.36	2.36	2.34	2.36	2,423,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,009,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.235	20,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
Ever-Goteco Resources	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,600,000
Fit-Estate Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	47,300
Ionics Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.2	3.25	38,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	540,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	2,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,400,000
Philiread Holdings Corp.	3	3	3	3	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwid Holdings Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	20,000
Pryst Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	7.9	7.9	99,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.25	287,900
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10.25	10	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,400
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	13,622,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,130,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,390,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	60,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	12,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	332,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	3,118,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	4,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Philrex Mining Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Philrex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	450,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	48,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000

SPI set to test India market

SPI Technologies Inc. has hired Mumbai-based investment bank Edelweiss Capital Ltd. to help it scout for merger and acquisition opportunities in India and the United States.

"SPI's management believes that enhancing the scale of its operations will enable it to maintain its leadership position in the offshore business process outsourcing industry," SPI president Ernest Cu told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

"Additionally, recent events have increased the requirement of large corporate clients for geopolitical diversification in order to reduce risk. This has created significant interest in companies with critical mass in India, the Philippines and the US," he said.

Edelweiss has significant experience in both the business processing outsourcing and software services. It specializes in the corporate finance requirements of emerging and middle market corporations and has been helping raise over \$100 million worth of private equity for its clients since 1998.

"Edelweiss will advise SPI on a strategy to accelerate SPI's growth and market presence," Cu said.

Doris C. Dumlaog

CURRENCIES

Oct. 8, 2002	Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
	United States	Dollar	1.021450	1.000000	52.8580
	Japan	Yen	0.008225	0.008052	0.4256
	United Kingdom	Pound	1.587334	1.554000	82.1413
	Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130963	0.128213	6.7771
	Switzerland	Franc	0.682104	0.667780	35.2975
	Canada	Dollar	0.639445	0.626017	33.0900
	Singapore	Dollar	0.571441	0.559441	29.5709
	Australia	Dollar	0.559025	0.547285	28.9284
	Bahrain	Dinar	2.710137	2.653224	140.2441
	Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272387	0.266667	14.0955
	Brunei	Dollar	0.568895	0.556948	29.4392
	Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0059
	Thailand	Baht	0.023352	0.022862	1.2084
	UAE	Dirham	0.278135	0.272294	14.3929
	Korea	Won	0.000821	0.000804	0.0425
	Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.979000	51.7480
	Argentina	Real	0.273115	0.267380	14.1332
	Brazil	Real	0.275844	0.270051	14.2744
	Denmark	Kroner	0.134630	0.131803	6.9668
	India	Rupee	0.021152	0.020708	1.0946
	Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268839	0.263193	13.9119
	Mexico	New Peso	0.100765	0.098649	5.2144
	New Zealand	Dollar	0.492336	0.481997	25.4774
	Norway	Kroner	0.137478	0.134591	7.1142
	Pakistan	Rupee	0.017313	0.016949	0.8959
	South Africa	Rand	0.097281	0.095238	5.0341
	Sweden	Kroner	0.109039	0.106749	5.6425
	Syria	Pound	0.023109	0.022624	1.1959
	Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029168	0.028555	1.5094
	Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000685	0.000671	0.0355

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Republic Glass Holdings Corp. has approved the company's corporate governance and anti-money laundering operation manuals and named Leopold Tan as compliance officer. The members of its audit committee are Bienvenido Tan Jr., Geronimo Velasco Jr. and Federico Puno. Puno and Velasco are also sitting on the compensation committee with Adeline Lim. The board has also declared cash dividends of 15 centavos per share in favor of stockholders as of Oct. 21 and shall be payable on Nov. 12.

PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications has clarified that there have been no new developments in its bid to rehabilitate Unitrust Development Bank since it disclosed that it had difficulty securing the additional requirements sought by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

INTERPORT Resources Corp. denied having information that could explain the 40-percent drop in its share price that fell from 0.22 centavos to 0.14 centavos.

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. has bought 30,700 of its own shares at P32 each. Compiled by Maricar D. Toksa, PDI Research

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- **PICTURE CITY** Medium Scale Category (Non-fashion)
- **ISLANDS SOUVENIRS** Small Scale Category (Fashion)
- **DESIGNER BLOOMS** Small Scale Category (Non-fashion)
- **FOLDED & HUNG** Most Promising Retailer (Fashion)
- **PCX** Most Promising Retailer (Non-fashion)



Winners All (From left to right) Mercury Drug Vice President Jacinto Concepcion, PRA Chairman Emeritus Santa Lim, Picture City Chairman Eliseo Santos, Islands Souvenirs President Jay Aliguer, Folded & Hung President Ronald V. Pineda, Guest of Honor & Former DTI Secretary Jose E. Pardo, DTI Undersecretary Adolfo S. Cristobal, Jr., PRA Chairman Manuel M. Sigmont, Penshoppe's Alice Lee, Penshoppe CEO Dennis Lee, Ayala Center Sr. Division Manager Francis D. Rivas, PRA Vice Chairman for Internal Bing S. Limjoco (partly hidden), Bayo President Ferdinand Y. Agustin, PRA President Geronimo V. Tanoco III (partly hidden), PRA Vice Chairman for External Roberto S. Claudio & Designer Blooms Managing Director Socorro R. Garcia (not in photo).

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Lockout over; US ports reopen

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal judge approved President George W. Bush's request Tuesday to reopen West Coast ports, ending a caustic 10-day labor lockout that has cost the fragile US economy \$1 billion to \$2 billion a day.

Three hours after Justice Department officials filed documents in a San Francisco federal court, Judge William Alsup agreed to impose an 80-day cooling-off period in the dispute under the Taft-Hartley Act.

"This dispute between management and labor cannot be allowed to further harm the economy and force thousands of working Americans from their jobs," Bush said earlier Tuesday.

Bush's politically charged decision made him the first president in a quarter-century to intervene in a labor dispute with Taft-Hartley, an act passed in 1947 which allows presidential intervention.

His speech coincided with an announcement by the dockworkers' union agreeing to an eleventh-hour truce to return to work for 30 days under terms of the expired contract.

But the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping companies and terminal operators, rejected the deal and forced the Bush administration to seek the court's help. The association insisted on a 90-day extension.

"They wanted to Taft-Hartley the union all along," said union spokesperson Steve Stallone. "All along, they wanted the government to come in and solve the problem for them."

The Bush administration denied it took sides.

Association officials applauded Bush's move. Association president Joseph Miniace said, "we have got to get this behind us."

The petition, signed by five of



DOCKWORKERS walk through a mountain of shipping containers at the port of Ensenada, Mexico. The port saw increased activity due to the US West Coast dock lockout. REUTERS

Bush's Cabinet secretaries, asked the court to require work at the ports to "resume at a normal pace." Shipping companies locked out dockworkers after accusing them of a slowdown that was hurting productivity. The union said it was strictly following safety and health regulations. In supporting documents, Commerce Secretary Don Evans

said that if allowed to continue, the work stoppage "would have a significant negative effect on the US economic recovery and would lead to a decline in the rate of growth."

Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta noted that "more than \$12 billion in goods and services that would otherwise have found their way into the US econ-

omy from the West Coast ports could not do so."

The most often-cited study puts total harm to the economy at between \$1 billion and \$2 billion a day. That study, by Martin Associates of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was prepared for the association. It estimated the cost of a five-day work stoppage at \$4.7 billion and a 10-day stoppage at \$19 billion.

A court-ordered truce would keep the ports open during the crucial Christmas season, when retailers rely on imported goods to stock their shelves.

White House advisers welcomed the chance to deflect questions about Bush's economic policies, which have either stalled in the Senate or have failed to jump-start the economy. Now he has an economic cause to promote.

Hopes for an end to the stand-off soothed investors Tuesday, prompting them to buy stocks and give the market its first advance in five sessions. The Dow Jones index closed up 78 points.

Bush encouraged the two sides to settle their differences before the cooling-off period ends.

"I expect both sides to put the concerns of our national health and safety first and work in good faith to resolve their differences as quickly as possible," Bush said. AP

Asia relieved, but counts cost of ports shutdown

HONG KONG—The expected reopening of ports on the West Coast of the United States brought some relief to Asian manufacturers and shippers Wednesday, though the region was still counting the costs of the 10-day shutdown.

"Of course we feel encouraged, but it doesn't mean there's an end to the problem," Sunny Ho Lap-kee, executive director of the Hong Kong Shippers Council, said Wednesday.

Ports and most transport lines were already working near capacity before the closure began, and now there is a backlog of cargo aboard ships awaiting loading or unloading on the West Coast. Ho predicted it could take six to eight weeks for delays to be cleared.

"In the next few weeks, Hong Kong exporters will be facing real challenges in shipping their goods," Ho said.

Hong Kong's Trade Development Council has estimated local losses linked to the shutdown would be at least HK\$1 billion (\$128.2 million).

Dockworkers on the US West Coast were expected to return to work Wednesday after a federal judge approved President George W. Bush's request to reopen ports there under the Taft-Hartley Act, which allows a president to intervene in a labor dispute in cases of a national emergency.

The announcement came as regional

economists were warning that the disruptions caused by the shutdown could derail Hong Kong's meager economic growth, targeted at 1.5 percent this year.

The labor lockout was costing the US economy \$1 billion to \$2 billion a day, and its ripple effects were being felt throughout Asian economies that depend heavily on exports to the US market, mainly through the West Coast.

Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong warned the government might have to slash its growth forecast of 3 percent to 4 percent if the closure did not end soon.

The official newspaper China Daily said Wednesday that the closure was putting a heavy strain on booming bilateral trade.

"The closure of US West Coast ports has been a hammer blow," the newspaper quoted Li Ping, deputy general manager of the Beijing cargo subsidiary of China Ocean Shipping (Group) Co. (Cosco), as saying.

Cosco had a dozen cargo ships stranded outside West Coast ports, and keeping them operating was costing thousands of US dollars in extra expenses each day.

The greater fear was over the potential impact on trade.

China would feel the impact more acutely than some other export nations because most products made there are low-price goods that are shipped by sea in containers. AP

Innovation, technology key to East Asia competitiveness: WB

SINGAPORE—East Asia must sharpen its capacity to innovate and make full use of information and communication technology (ICT) to remain competitive in a liberalized global market, the World Bank said Wednesday.

The region, whose economies were humbled by a financial crisis five years ago, must adopt a new approach in these key areas if it is to erase the stigma of the 1997-1998 meltdown, the bank said in a report launched here.

Such an innovative spirit must be grounded on strong institutions, better macro-economic policies and a move for closer regional economic integration, said the report titled "Can East Asia Compete?"

In the long-term, the main driver of growth will come from the ability to innovate, said World Bank vice president for East Asia and the Pacific Jamal-ud-din Kasum.

"There are things one can do to make that innovation happen, rather than leaving it to chance," he said, adding this involves policies to encourage a free flow of ideas and networking among scientific and engineering sectors.

While East Asia's collective economic growth of nearly 6.0 percent in 2000 from 1.6 percent in 1998 point to a recovery from the financial crisis, a US-led global downturn last

year again caused the region's economies to falter.

Growth has rebounded this year, but questions remain as to whether East Asian economies can sustain their competitiveness and return to previous growth levels, the report said.

It listed four key areas for the region to improve upon—building a capacity for innovation, boosting market institutions and business services, and harnessing the power of the Internet and opening up their markets.

Despite differences in the levels of economic development, East Asia is ripe for innovation to take root, especially among its more developed economies.

Some East Asian economies are giving priority to ICT and have invested heavily in research and development, the report said, citing the rising scale of patenting in China, South Korea and Taiwan.

"Our main message is that innovative capability will have to come very much at the top of the agenda of priorities," said Shahid Yusuf, who co-authored the report.

The region's growth prospects will depend not only on being competitive in traditional sectors but also "increasingly on the ability to move into new areas" like services, where innovation is a key ingredient. AFP



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Andre San Agustin, Ph.D.

Prior to returning to his home country, Dr. Andre was a Master Trainer for Organizational Transformation Seminars, a US based executive development training firm specializing in unique interdisciplinary and experiential approaches to personal and organizational transformation. He has a Ph.D. in Marketing Management and Social Psychology from Pennsylvania State University and an MBA in Marketing Management from the University of Rhode Island. A recipient of several U.S. awards on teaching excellence, Dr. Andre was formerly a full-time professor of the University of Arizona, Manhattan College and Iona College in New York, University of San Francisco, University of San Diego in California and our very own Asian Institute of Management where he taught Organizational Behaviour, Business Leadership and Responsibility, Marketing Management and Team Excellence.

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MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Co-op governing body seeks wider scope

By Charles E. Buban

AFTER ALMOST two decades of serving the nation's public utility transport workers, the Office of Transport Cooperative thinks it's about time to expand its mandate by becoming a transport cooperative authority.

Since its inception in 1983, the OTC has accredited and organized and is continuously supervising some 600 transport cooperatives nationwide with a membership total now close to 70,000 or more than 30,000 transport vehicle units.

Under Executive Order 898 (and amended by EO 1030), the OTC is only mandated to promulgate and implement rules and regulations to govern the promotion, organization, accreditation, supervision and development of the transportation cooperatives, which are all subject to the approval of the Department of Transportation and Communications.

"We can only perform what was mandated in the law and you need Congressional and Senate approval to change this (mandate) and that's what we are trying to do right now," said OTC chair Jaime Domdom.

Bill sponsors

In its bid to become a transport co-op authority, the OTC needs Senate and Congress approval. "We have Sen. Aquilino Pimentel as well as his counterparts in the Lower House, namely Representatives Eduardo Zialcita, Nanette Castelo-Daza and Generoso Tulagan who expressed willingness to sponsor a bill," reported Domdom.

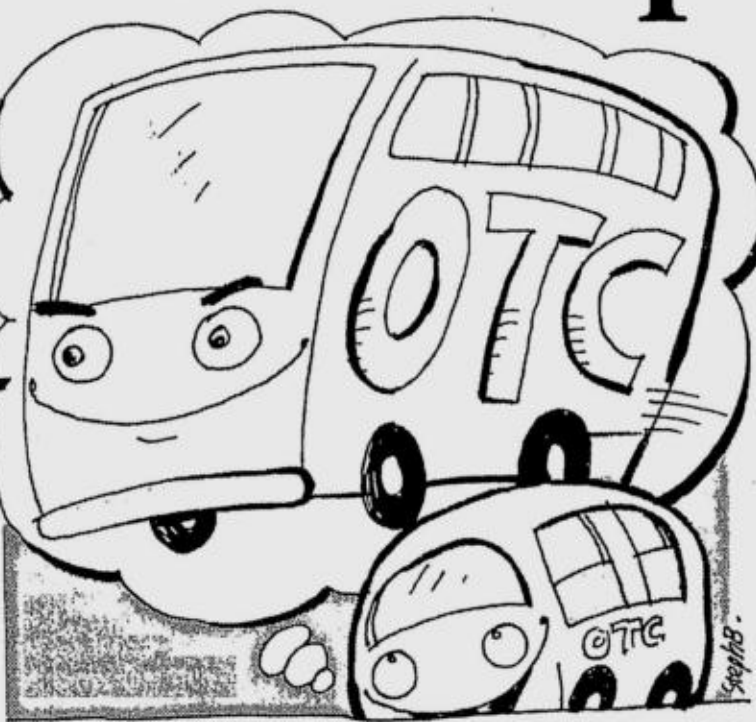


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

"It's a little surprising since while we're doing this, rumors of OTC's abolition came up," said Domdom referring to recent news that includes the OTC among the 14 government agencies set to be abolished next year. "Of course, there's no truth in this news since only a legislative act can abolish OTC. On the contrary, we intend to get much bigger."

With the creation of a Transport Cooperative Authority, Domdom has envisioned a much stronger OTC that will institutionalize all transport operators' and drivers' associations in the country. "Imagine the benefits that all their members can enjoy if they turn themselves into cooperatives," he said.

Unlike a Toda, a cooperative can avail of the various programs and projects being offered by the OTC like training seminars as well as technical and financial

support coming from the government. Cooperatives are also exempted from certain taxes and are given bidding priority.

Financial support

Through the years, the OTC has coordinated with various financing institutions to coordinate assistance to various cooperative projects, particularly its Vehicle Acquisition Program. In fact, the numerous government financing institutions supporting the OTC has so far released a combined amount of P438.5 million.

Among them, the Development Bank of the Philippines has provided 101.5 million for three projects under the Boundary-Hull Acquisition Program. The Philippine National Bank has already released P21.9 million for the Puhunan sa Unang Jeepney Program, while the Land Bank of the Philippines has already released P15.1 mil-

lion for the Koop-Sikap (Sasakyang Inilaan para sa Kalakal, Agrikultura at Pasahero) Hulongan Program.

"We were able to get all these loans at no cost from the government," boasted Domdom. "And we can do much better since we have the potential to be an efficient income-generating office, too, to help the government in securing its much needed revenue."

Regional offices

The proposed act would also make the OTC, a one-stop shop for all transactions involving transport cooperatives. Under its policy thrust and strategies this year, the OTC is hoping to decentralize its operation by setting up pilot regional offices in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Said Domdom: "We hope to bring our services much closer to the people and at the same time accelerate the promotion and organization of transport cooperatives particularly in the rural areas. Right now, the functions are distributed like there's still the Cooperative Development Authority which takes charge of the registration and quasi-judicial functions."

To further its cause, the OTC will also seek the support of all the cooperative leaders in the country during the First National Transport Summit to be held from Oct. 18 to 20 at the Mt. Makiling Convention Center in Los Baños, Laguna. National chair Robert Noriega of the Pambansang Kalipulan ng mga Kooperatibang Pangasakyan expressed his support to OTC: "I believe we need a much stronger OTC, and this event we are spearheading is an excellent venue for chair Domdom since all co-op organizations nationwide are there to listen."



TOYOTA Camry

Bigger, sleeker, faster Camry

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



THERE was a time when all Japan Inc. midsize passenger sedans looked alike, as if they had come from the same cookie cutter. In the mid-1990s, you could hardly distinguish between the Honda Accord, the Mitsubishi Galant, the Toyota Corona and the Mazda 626.

But this is no longer true with the arrival of the 2002-03 Toyota Camry. As Toyota's replacement for the Corona in the medium-size car stakes, the first Camry introduced here did not exactly capture the market because of its bland, rather spartan styling and slit-narrow taillights.

The new Camry launched last July by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., however, is a totally different creature. Sleeker, bigger, more powerful and more luxurious than the old model, the fifth generation Camry is poised to challenge the M class sedan market leader, the Nissan Cefiro.

The new grille, multireflector headlights and L-shaped taillights add brio to the Camry's exterior. The shapely new Camry looks like it was aerodynamically sculpted in a wind tunnel as in fact it was. Toyota claims that engineers used Computer Fluid Dynamics and wind tunnel tests to come up with the body design of the Gen V Camry, achieving a 0.29 drag coefficient that equals the Lexus ES300s and beats the all-new 2003 Honda Accord's 0.30. All this translates into a higher top speed (0 to 100 km/h in 9.23 seconds), improved stability, enhanced fuel efficiency and less wind noise in motion.

Sensibly luxurious

Six days spent driving the top-of-the-line 2.4-liter Camry gave me an idea as to how Toyota intends to improve market share in the M-class segment. Unlike the 2002 Cefiro Brougham, which remains an impressively gadget-laden, ornately elegant car for chauffeur-driven potentates, the Camry 2.4V can be marketed as a sensibly luxurious family sedan driven by younger paterfamilias. The key word here is sensible.

Not that the Camry 2.4V is short of luxury features. Leather seats, chrome and wood grain trim are standard in the passenger cabin, which is bigger and roomier than the previous generation Camry. The two-tone interior or color scheme is complemented by a tri-color Optitron luminous meter on the ergonomically designed dashboard. The auto air-conditioning system, which has additional air vents in the rear, tailors the temperature and air flow according to sunlight intensity and outside and interior temperatures monitored by electronic sensors.

The Camry's audio system is state-of-the-art: Kenwood with single in-dash MD/CD/MP3 player and six speakers plus a 6-disc

CD changer in the trunk. Power steering, power windows and door locks, keyless entry with alarm system, door courtesy lights, four cupholders, front map lamps, rear reading lamps, center console box (cavernous because instead of a handbrake, the Camry has a pedal type parking brake), high-mount stop lamp, key warning and headlamp warning buzzers, storage cubbyholes, accessory power outlet and many other convenient features are standard.

Fortified with VVT-i

By installing the lightweight, compact 2.4-liter DOHC 4-cylinder 16-valve engine of the Highlander SUV under the hood of the Camry 2.4V, Toyota boosted horsepower by 29 percent from the previous model to 157 hp @ 5,600 RPM peak production. Fortified with VVT-i (variable valve timing intelligence), the Camry's new powerplant offers increased torque through low- to medium-range engine RPMs, quick and smooth acceleration, plus reduced vibration and exhaust emissions. The Camry's electronically controlled four-speed automatic transmission, also new, shifts gears smoothly and you can switch to sport mode ECT for overtaking purposes. However, the Camry's engine is not quite as quiet as the Nissan Cefiro's "power delivered in a whisper" V6 engine.

There is no question that Toyota gives top priority to safety. The Camry is loaded with advanced safety features such as four-wheel disk brakes with Antilock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist (BA). The Camry further protects the driver and passengers in case of a collision via its dual airbags, 3-point ELR seatbelts, front and rear crumple zones, side-impact beams, Whiplash Injury Lessening front seats, head impact protection pillar garnish, collapsible steering column and anti-intrusion brake pedal.

All told, the 2002 Camry is a solid, comfortable and fuel-efficient midsize passenger sedan with just the right dollops of horsepower, torque and luxury. Coupled with Toyota's time-tested reputation for high quality and reliability, the P1.55-million 2.4V Camry is a serious contender for pole position in the M-class sedan market.

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THE FREEGO Rota Speedwelle racing duo and the rest of their team

Motor sporting in Subic

TALK of motor sporting used to be centered on drag racing and its concurrent taboo extremes which included booze, women and gambling. But while some elements continue to opt for the thrill that comes with its nonconformist picture—something like kickboxing or dogfights—we are happy to note that this trend has, in fact, evolved into something legal, recognized, indeed, even popular especially to those who know the value of the sport.

Motor sporting in the country has indeed come a long way. Veteran names include those of Potenciano and the Ramirezes, and other trackster brothers whose roadster passions—though expectedly expensive—has given the country a good name. And as year after year passes, more and more upcoming stars of the slaloms and the circuits are emerging into a class of their own.

Both with eight years experience in racing, professional drivers and businessmen Ferdie Ong and Benedict dela Cruz—wearing the colors of team Freego Rota Speedwelle—can be considered two upcoming personalities in the world of motorsports.

Both multiawarded racers with good track records and times, they take their time to speak of the tracks, as it were, well seated this time.

Ong, Class A super saloon champion in last year's circuit race, says there's just something about racing that you really can't explain. And the thrill really

takes place at the start of the race when you're waiting for the light to turn green.

Explains Ong: "I mean, there's always the possibility of your getting left behind if you make a bad start. There's just so many things going on in your head."

Dela Cruz, who received a Novice of the Year award in 1994 and the Blaze Super Saloon B's first runner-up in last year's circuit, says he gets his kicks from beating veteran drivers.

The thrill is well-placed. Physical training for endurance as well as mental conditioning are part and parcel of race preparations, notes Dela Cruz. "But let's put it this way," he admits anew, "I feel safer driving full-throttle inside the tracks with competent drivers than drive among the PUJs and PUBs. It's a zoo out there."

"You have to understand that streets are far different from tracks," Ong agrees. "You have more room on the tracks to make mistakes. On the streets, racing could mean fatal accidents."

This is not to say, however, that there is little or no risk involved in the sport. "There's a very big risk especially if you don't know how to maneuver or steer your car," says Ong. And the best thing to do during such a case is summed up neatly by Dela Cruz: "Use your seatbelt."

In a country known for street-driving notorious enough to drive our nearest Asian and western counterparts to cringe in their jacked-up machines, this is a very important reminder.



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WHAT is the overdrive function in an automatic transmission?

—Benjie Oreta

Overdrive is really just a fancier name for the highest gear on your vehicle. When you switch it on, you allow your transmission to shift into Overdrive mode after your vehicle hits a certain speed. In effect, it reduces the revolutions per minute (rpm) thereby improving fuel efficiency while you're driving on the highway. When it's off, you limit shifting to the second highest gear.

Obviously, with an automatic transmission, the gears are shifted automatically by the vehicle. But then again, overdrive can be turned on or off. So the question has cropped up as to whether it is necessary to manually shift to overdrive. The answer is no. As a general rule, you should just turn the overdrive on and forget about it. Under normal driving conditions, your vehicle will automatically shift into overdrive, slow the engine and save gas as soon as you hit a certain speed.

However, there are times when you might want to take the transmission out of overdrive. That's when certain road or traffic conditions force you to maintain a speed that keeps the transmission on the blurry edge between the second highest gear and overdrive, and so you find the transmission "hunting." That's when the transmission keeps shifting back and forth a lot, "hunting" for the right gear to be in. This usually happens when you're driving uphill or towing something and your vehicle can't decide whether to stay on overdrive or shift to a lower gear.

It doesn't hurt the transmission if it keeps doing that. But it can get rather annoying to the driver. So you can temporarily take the transmission out of overdrive until the road or driving conditions change. Now, if you forget to turn overdrive back on and drive for quite some distance again at high speed, you'd put a little extra wear on the engine and get poorer gas mileage. So if you turn it off, remember to turn it back on.

General Motors unleashes new Forester

By Tessa R. Salazar

COUNTERING the entry of Ford Escape, Suzuki Grand Vitara, Toyota Rav 4 and Honda CR-V with its rally derived horizontally opposed engines and legendary full time all wheel drive is the 2003 Subaru Forester.

The motoring press and Rockwell Powerplant habitués were treated to the two-liter 2003 Subaru Forester showcase.

At first you wouldn't see the difference, but GM Automobiles Philippines describes its new baby as having no cosmetic makeover but a complete tire-to-roof rail redefinition of a vehicle.

The project marks the sustained partnership of General Motors Corp. and Fuji Heavy Industries, makers of Subaru cars.

Subaru Forester now addresses its previ-



FORESTER

ously bland looks and styling in this model, said its makers. The new Forester has a new layout, dimpled trim pad materials, and an

extra 25 mm of legroom in the rear.

Its new features include aggressive new front end styling with deep grille, large recessed circular fog lamps and multibulb headlights. Its subtly reshaped rear end features a larger glass area for greater visibility.

It also boasts of the latest generation active torque split system that automatically adjusts torque distribution between front and rear wheels, to react to any changes in driving conditions.

Marketed as a sports safety vehicle in the Philippines, the Subaru Forester was launched 2001 as an all-road all-wheel-drive vehicle.

Curious Forester aficionados can take a peek at GM Autoworld in Makati, Quezon Avenue, Pampanga and the newly opened Shaw branch.

ECONOMY DRIVE**2.4 liters of diesel in 89 kilometers**

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT seemed like your run of the mill motoring press junket at first. Drive brand-new vehicles, get VIP treatment, check in a posh hotel—even if it was “just” at the White Cove Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas—and try the “regular” amenities of jet skiing, or just plain lazing out.

Beneath all this fun, however, ran a test of serious skill: the skill of burning less while running more. We don't mean the calories here. Over 100 participants, including members of the motoring press and Isuzu customers, were challenged to use as little diesel as possible in running the 89-km stretch from Alabang, Muntinlupa to Nasugbu, Batangas.

After using every trick in the book (of which some are not worth trying at home, kids), the winning fuel miser used up only 2.456 liters of diesel, or an average run of 36.48 km per liter. Amazing and record setting, even.

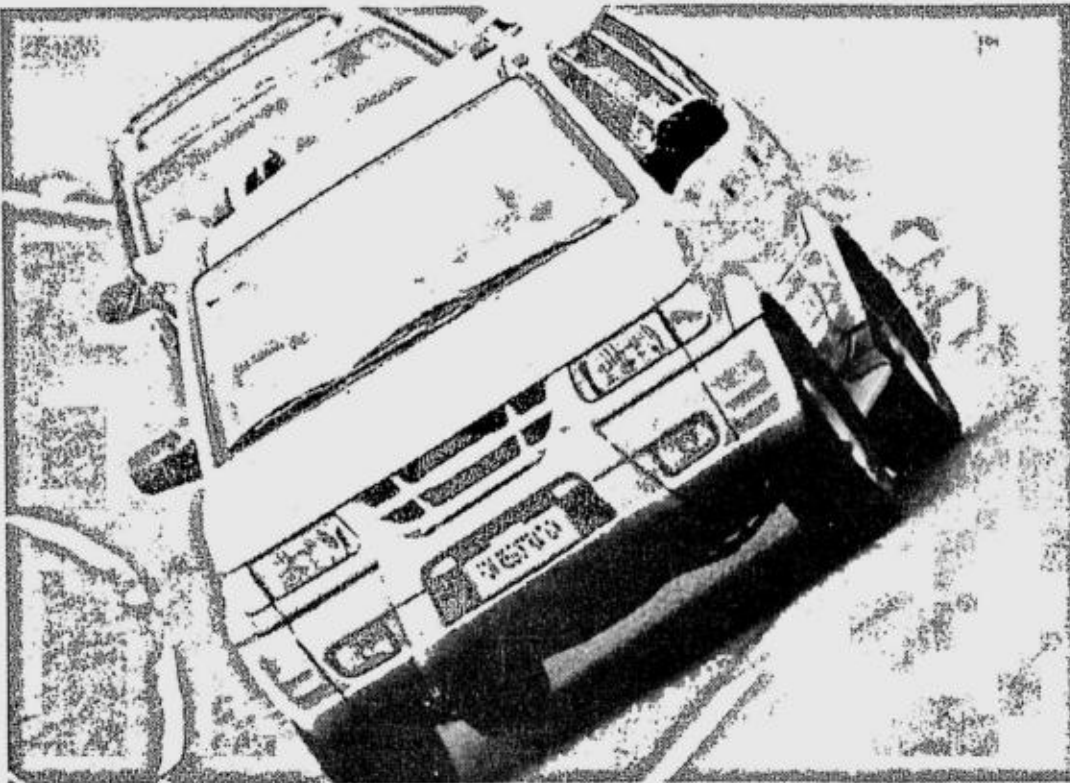
Though part of the credit goes to the diesel vehicles used—Isuzu Crosswind manual transmission, Fuego M/T and Crosswind automatic transmission and Trooper 4x2 A/T—are well known for their economical engines, it all boiled down to the driver and his navigator's skill and savvy.

Driver Dino Directo of the Manila Standard and navigator Giby Yalung of the Manila Times showed just that.

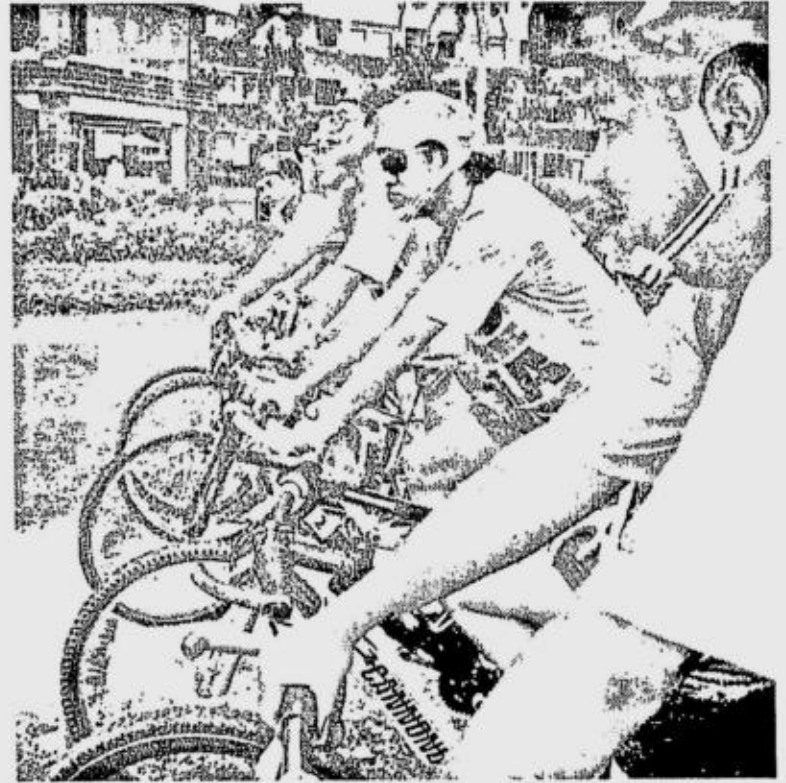
Directo, heavy-set and part-time drag racer (of the legal kind, we must note), and Yalung competed in an Isuzu Crosswind M/T. Their methods to get that record-breaking run? For starters, they just switched off the engine on occasional downhill glides along the hilly Tagaytay-Silang route, and at times tailgated buses to ride the slipstream, which added more “pull” (much like the way pro bikers hide behind speeding cars to maintain high speeds). Needless to say, these maneuvers can only be done by trained pros.

The tandem also did several apex maneuvers, approaching angles on curves where they could “ricochet” with more speed, where they could save more fuel.

The road to Nasugbu is characterized by undulating hills and smooth twists. When the vehicle gained momentum, the tandem went into neutral gear. “Once the track went uphill and we felt we lacked power, we shifted to fifth gear—just enough to propel the vehicle forward. After propelling forward, we shifted to neu-



THE ROAD to Nasugbu is characterized by undulating hills and smooth twists.



ANOTHER form of “fuel economy” run



LOADING up before taking off

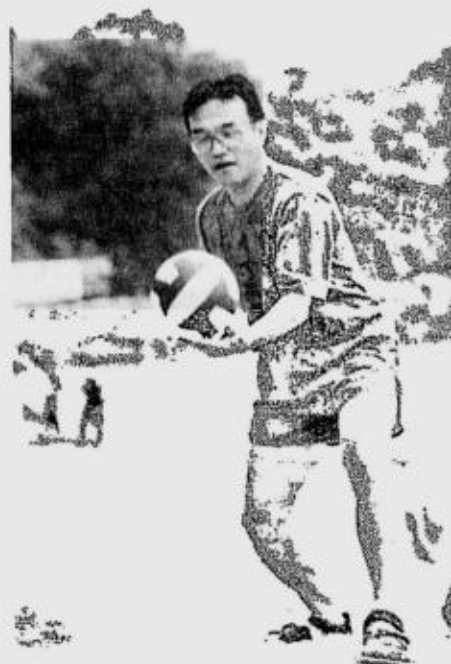
tral again,” recounted Directo.

The dangerous stunt of turning off the engine was done only after making sure both sides of the highway were clear, said Directo.

Other first placers of the Isuzu economy drive challenge were the tandem of Carlos de Guzman and Romeo de Guzman, who used a Fuego M/T (2.699 liters), Wilfredo de Luna and Joel Papa in a Trooper A/T (2.907 liters), and Vernon Sarne and Jeff Reyes in a Crosswind A/T (3.44 liters).

Economy driving tips were shared before the run, during the orientation. Our average motorist would do well to take note and practice these tips:

- Proper vehicle specs to aid in saving up on gas include tire pressure and the grade of the engine oil.
- Driving in low gear to warm up the vehicle would consume less fuel than idling the engine for several minutes before running.
- At intersections, if you think you will be idle for more than 30 seconds, it would be more fuel efficient to turn the engine off.
- Always drive as if you had a sleeping baby as your passenger. This means accelerate smooth, and brake smooth.
- Plan your brakes. Plan your move in such a way that the vehicle does not run to a stop. To get the vehicle running



EVP Hiroshi Ishino's idea of fun

from zero consumes as much fuel as running it at high speeds.

• Maintain speeds between 60 and 70 kph as much as possible. Driving above that range is said to increase wind drag, and in turn increase fuel consumption. Driving at a constant 60 kph results in the most efficient fuel consumption.

• Avoid being clutch drivers. The drivers were also instructed to use the clutch only when changing gears, slowing down and when the vehicle was

about to stall. This not only reduces fuel consumption, but also decreases the wear and tear to the clutch lining.

• Overloading a vehicle is also a bad idea. This overworks the engine, which not only increases fuel consumption, but also shortens vehicle life.

• Ideally, gear shifting should occur below 1500 rpm to optimize fuel consumption. But be warned. When traveling downhill use the first or second gear, depending on the speed of the vehicle. Never drive on neutral, especially on downhill runs. Doing so will make the vehicle run too fast, possibly to a point when the brakes cannot stop the vehicle in time.

• Driving in gear ensures engine brakes in case of brake failure.

• Plan ahead and plan your route.

Why save fuel in the first place? The most obvious reason is that fossil fuel is a limited resource, and one this country does not have an abundance of. The more fuel we import, the more we become dependent to unstable supplies. Three-fourths of the world's oil reserves are concentrated in the Middle East, a region that is as politically volatile as the price of crude oil tomorrow.

So, unless someone out there turns water into fuel, let every drop of oil count. The tandem of Dino and Giby just did that, and they were 30 grand richer. They even got to enjoy everything White Cove had to offer the day after. How lucky these fuel misers are!

The saga that is Salo

THE FORMULA 1 season is over. In victory, Michael Schumacher, the German ace, has recorded several firsts—not to mention his record-tying five Grand Prix victories first registered by Juan Miguel Fangio some decades back. Italy's Ferrari, Schumi's masterpiece car, was tops again this year.

To show you how crazy the Italians are when it comes to Formula 1, one major Italian newspaper allowed Schumacher to write an editorial for the daily. I believe that was a first in print journalism—allowing an outsider to do an editorial.

I have done editorials for the INQUIRER at one time or another. But how about me doing one for The New York Times, or The Washington Post maybe?

Ah, I need to win the Pulitzer first? But that'd be asking for the moon.

Anyway, in the aftermath of the last Formula 1 was the sacking of Mika Salo as Toyota's lead driver in the world's No. 1 motor sport.

Following Toyota's announcement, Salo said: “It's the end of my Formula One career.”

I met Salo in person last year. The Finn was a joy to have a conversation with. Very articulate. A gentleman of the first degree.

In the same announcement, Toyota named Frenchman Olivier Panis as Salo's replacement for next year's Formula 1.

Salo must have found it hard to announce his retirement from Formula One racing. It came on the heels of Mika Hakkinen's retirement from the sport only last July.

With Salo and Hakkinen bidding goodbye, only Kimi Raikkonen of



McLaren remains as the only Finn left in Formula One racing.

Asked what his plans are after his stint with Toyota, Salo said he does not want to become “simply as a test driver” in the twilight of his career. But he did not rule out the possibility of lending his experience in auto development, “as Alain Prost did with McLaren.”

Salo began his Formula 1 career with Lotus in 1994. He then spent three years with Tyrrell before moving to Arrows in 1998.

The Finn was sacked in 1999, when Arrows announced just a few weeks before the start of the new season that they would not be retaining him.

But Salo bounced back with a splendid performance following a replacement job for the injured Ricardo Zonta at BAR.

When Schumacher broke his leg at the British GP later in the year, it was Salo that Ferrari called to deputize for him. Again, Salo performed creditably. Had it not been for team orders helping Eddie Irvine (shades of Barrichello giving way to Schumacher in one leg this year?) in his title quest, Salo would have taken his maiden GP win that year, at the Hockenheim GP.

In 2000, Salo moved to Sauber but continued to maintain his links with Fer-

rari. He made many memorable races. However, he made it clear that he wanted a drive with a team capable of winning, something he obviously did not feel the Swiss team was capable of. So, when Toyota's offer came in 2001, he readily grabbed it.

The rest, as we love to say, is history.

With Allan McNish's contract with Toyota also expiring this year, Toyota signed up Olivier Panis for a two-year contract starting in the 2003 Formula 1 season.

“We would like to thank Mika and Allan for their hard work during the last two years,” said Ove Andersson, president of Panasonic Toyota Racing. “This decision was not an easy one for the team and for Toyota Motor Corp. and in no way reflects on their clear racing ability.”

Said McNish: “It is slightly disappointing to be leaving the team, but 2003 is coming up and I am looking forward to that very much. I think my future is stronger than where we are leaving off. With regard to where I am going, we will have to wait and see because that is not fixed yet, but I am very confident that I will be in a good situation next year.”

I also met McNish last year and I found him also to be very articulate. I guess most Formula 1 drivers are like that—not only intelligent but witty as well.

QUOTE ME. I guess I've said this before but I'll say it again anyway: Formula 1 drivers, the fastest drivers on the racing circuit, are the safest drivers on the road.

Shell introduces new engine oil for diesels

By Charles E. Buban

Responding to the clamor for an engine oil that best fits the vehicles owned by most families in the country today, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. introduces a new member in its Shell Helix brand.

The new Shell Helix Diesel Super is formulated especially for the country's diesel-fed utility vehicles, which includes the Asian utility vehicles, family vans and sport utility vehicles.

“This new oil can really limit vehicle repairs and maintenance while giving the comfort and smoothness of a sedan-like drive—qualities that most of our vehicle owners prefer,” said Edwin Lacet, Shell brand manager.

Special additive

The Shell Helix Diesel Super contains Viralite additives that according to Lacet give the stay-in-grade property to deliver a smooth drive while protecting the engine and lessen engine vibrations at the same time.

“Our research shows that the Shell Helix Diesel Super has excellent viscosity control for lower engine noise and cleaning properties to rid of engine sludge and carbon deposits that translate for smoother engine drive,” explained Lacet.

Lacet also reported that the new oil's performance was proven on several road test-drives, which attest to the vehicles'

better acceleration and responsiveness. Shell Helix Diesel Super is sold at P145 a liter.

Separate specification

Lacet said the Shell Helix Diesel Super was conceived based on the new breed of utility vehicles running in the country today.

Trucks and buses have diesel engines that are so much different since they are often used as work horses by their owners. Pinoy utility vehicles, on the other hand, are evolving to be family cars, and therefore require a special type of engine oil,” said Lacet.

“These vehicles run at much higher engine speeds, generally travel at shorter periods and variable speeds, not unlike the trucks and buses built for long haul and moves at a more constant speed,” said Lacet.

Based on this premise, the Association Constructors Engineer d'Automobile (Acea), the organization setting

standards for oil grades, gave most diesel oils an Acea E specification, which is actually more suited for heavy-duty diesel vehicles such as trucks, tractors and farm equipment.

By creating another specification, the Acea B, the engine oil under this category best fits engines with smaller displacements such as AUVs, family vans and sport utes. The Shell Helix Diesel exceeds Acea B specifications.

**'Rate My Civic' at www.hondaphil.com**

GOT a flashy Civic in your garage? Show it off at Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s “Rate My Civic,” an online car show competition featuring the 7th generation Honda Civic.

Hosted by HCPI's official website, www.hondaphil.com, Rate My Civic of-

fers each owner the chance to showcase his sportily dressed up Honda Civic, see how it fares with other entries and bag the People's Choice award.

“Rate My Civic” is open to all 7th generation Civics spruced up with Honda genuine and nongenuine acces-

sories. Owners must be legal residents of the Philippines. Simply submit at least three pictures of their Civic at www.hondaphil.com. A host of great prizes and a trophy from Honda await the best-looking Civic.

If you're a car buff, log on to

www.hondaphil.com and be a judge of the “Rate My Civic” entries. Simply fill up all the necessary information required, view the Civic photo gallery and rate your choices. You may get to win great Honda premium items.

Submission of entries is until Oct. 21

and will be up for viewing and rating until Oct. 28.

The criteria for judging are based on originality, creativity, impact and dynamism, each comprising equal percentage.

Show off your Civic online and be voted as having best-looking car in town.

Narito na!

GSK LIVELIHOOD CARAVAN

at Ma Gerry Geronimo



ABANGAN ANG GSK LIVELIHOOD CARAVAN ... DARATING NA SA INYONG BARANGAY!!!

Ating Alamin B-MEG

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In cooperation with Ating Alamin's Gabayan Sa Kabuhayan livelihood program, SMFI-Feeds went on-the-road with the B-MEG/GSK Livelihood Caravan, espousing countryside development through an educational campaign on livelihood projects such as hog raising, tilapia raising, and meat processing

THE POWER UP TEAM

Team SMFI joins Agrilink Trade Show

FARMERS and people involved in the farming and animal-raising industry can expect an exciting product showcase by the San Miguel Foods, Inc. (SMFI), the largest feeds company in the Philippines on October 10 to 12 during the annual Agrilink Trade Show at the World Trade Center.

Agrilink's theme for the affair is "Quality and Productivity—Keys to Global Competitiveness." For this, SMFI enjoins the thrust with its own motto: "Power Up with Team SMFI: Pacesetters in Feed Quality and Farm Productivity."

SMFI's participation to the event aims to provide customers and agriculture enthusiasts with the right information in starting or growing their animal-raising business.

In connection with this, Team SMFI is offering short seminars on business opportunity within SMFI's booth in the trade show's area.

Likewise, the booth will be offering daily sessions with Dr. Valentino Argañosa, the "Father of the Philippine Swine Production."

The event will also provide a venue for potential partners to consult with animal-

raising experts who will be made available in the booth.

Fun, games, prizes and more surprises await the participants to the trade show.

As pacesetters in the industry, Team SMFI continuously develops each of their animal-specific feeds through extensive research and development in various facilities and farms nationwide.

Team SMFI provides strong support for their business partners both as end-users or retailers/dealers. It also provides on-call assistance to partners—from farm management techniques to the availability of veterinarians/animal-nutritionists.

Team SMFI makes the knowledge of animal-raising as a source of livelihood available even in far flung corners of the country. Every month, there are more than 100 barangay seminars on hog-raising being conducted by B-Meg and Pureblend personnel.

Hand-in-hand with TV's Ating Alamin and its Gabayan sa Kabuhayan (GSK) livelihood program, Team SMFI roams the country through the B-MEG/GSK Livelihood Caravan.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of

San Miguel Corporation, SMFI is composed of the Flour, Poultry (Magnolia Chicken), and Feeds Businesses.

Specifically, SMFI manufactures animal and aquatic feeds under the B-Meg and PureBlend

brands. Each brand boasts of an extensive line of animal-specific feeds developed and formulated to ensure that farm animals grow to their maximum potential for breeding and slaughter.



The B-MEG Pangasinan Plant (BMPP) in Binalonan, Pangasinan, is one of the company's three wholly-owned and 24 satellite toll partners.

Para sa alagang todo-BIGAT!

B-MEG

ANGAT SA ALAGA.

Produkto ng

San Miguel Pure Foods



SAN MIGUEL FOODS, INC.- FEEDS BUSINESS

Great resource of the Filipino farmer

In 1953, San Miguel Corporation ventured into feed manufacturing to utilize the byproducts of the brewing process. The very first B-MEG plant was a 1-ton per hour pilot feed plant at the Polo Brewery.

B-MEG came from a vitamin B-12 feed supplement produced by culturing "bacillus megatherium" on a medium. As a contraction of this of this nutrient, the brand name B-MEG was adopted for all existing lines.

San Miguel Foods, Inc.-Feeds Business serves the full range of livestock and aquaculture industries more than any other feed manufacturer in the country. B-MEG is the umbrella brand, while sub-brands are used for specific feed types.

When SMFI acquired PureFoods Corporation in October 2001, PureBlend and Jumbo feed brands were integrated

into the SMFI-Feeds product portfolio.

SMFI-Feeds Business offers a range of products: animal feeds—hog feeds, layer feeds, broiler feeds, duck feeds, fighting cock feeds, specialized feeds (quail, ostrich, kabir, carabao) and feed concentrated for poultry and hogs.

Aquatic feeds products include shrimp feeds, tilapia feeds, and bangus feeds. There are also complementary products for day-old broilers and tilapia fry.

Today, SMFI has a nationwide network of feed mill operations, strategically located close to markets and raw material sources. SMFI has three feed mills and about 24 satellite toll partners, more than 20 sales offices all over the country, a fry production facility, numerous R&D facilities and farms for poultry, and numerous swine and finfish feeding trials.

San Miguel Foods, Inc.-Feeds Business serves

the full range of livestock and aquaculture in-

dustries more than any other feed

manufacturer in the country

Pacesetters in Feed Quality and Farm Productivity

TEAM SMFI

B-MEG

PUREBLEND FEEDS



SMFI-Feeds provides the most complete line-up of quality animal and aquatic feeds nationwide

San Miguel Foods, Inc. BMEG & PureBlend Product Profile

SMFI manufactures an extensive line of animal-specific feeds. Furthermore, each feed is designed to meet the nutritional requirements of each stage of the animal (from Starter to Finisher, Layers to Broilers). The more popular or commonly used feeds are:

HOG FEEDS	CHICKEN FEEDS	AQUATIC FEEDS
B-MEG PREMIUM	B-MEG PREMIUM	B-MEG Prize Catch
B-MEG Dynamix	B-MEG EXPERT	B-MEG PREMIUM
B-MEG EXPERT	PUREBLEND FEEDS	AQUARATION
BONANZA	GAME FOWL	B-MEG EXPERT
PUREBLEND FEEDS	B-MEG DERBY JAYCE	CE-90 (Shrimp Feeds)
JUMBO FEEDS	B-MEG Derby King	PUREBLEND FEEDS

Other Feeds Manufactured by SMFI include:

1. Ostrich Feeds
2. Duck Feeds

POWER UP YOUR BUSINESS WITH TEAM **SMFI**



PACE SETTERS IN FEED QUALITY AND FARM PRODUCTIVITY

Rev up with the many Business Opportunity Short Seminars:

Thursday, October 10	Friday, October 11	Saturday, October 12
• Meat Processing • Hog Raising • Tilapia Raising	• Monterey Meatshop Franchising • Hog Raising • Bangus Processing • Magnolia Contract Growing	• Hog Contract Growing Opportunity with Monterey • Hog Raising • Kabir Farming • Ostrich Farming

Daily Sessions with Dr. Valentino G. Argañosa on Swine Production

Push your luck! Play games and win prizes at the Team SMFI booth!

Visit us at AGRILINK 2002, World Trade Center, Roxas Blvd., Manila on October 10 - 12, 2002 and see where we can drive you and your business

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Sesame Street monsters on SM tour

GET READY as your favorite monsters from the most famous street drop by for Halloween. Have fun posing with your favorite muppet: Cookie Monster, Elmo and Count from Sesame Street as they trick or treat their way in all SM stores. Elmo, Cookie Monster and the Count will be at SM North Edsa on Oct. 28, SM Harrison and SM Southmall on Oct. 29, SM City Fairview on Oct. 30, SM City Davao on Oct. 20, SM City Manila on Oct. 25, SM City Pampanga on Oct. 26 and SM Megamall on Oct. 27 and 31.

They will be at the malls at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The Sesame Street Drawing and Coloring Activity from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. will be held at SM Centerpoint from Oct. 11 to 13, SM Megamall/Manila from Oct. 14 to 17, SM Supercenter Sucat/Pampanga from Oct. 18 to 20 and at SM Southmall Bacoor from Oct. 21 to 24.

Long-term weight loss lessens obesity risk factors

OBESITY is a chronic condition, associated with type 2 diabetes, hypertension, breast cancer, dyslipidemia, arthritis and other certain cancers. Aside from the interplay of environmental, socioeconomic and genetic factors, the low satiety potential of fat-rich diets is one major cause of obesity, particularly in those individuals who lead sedentary lives.

Studies had shown that a loss of around 10 percent of body weight in obese patients led to improved glycemic control, lower serum cholesterol levels and reduced blood pressure. Short-term weight loss, however, is of limited value.

"Even with the most rigorous weight-loss interventions, which include behavioral modifications, nutrition coun-

seling, social support and physical activity, these effects are wasted when weight loss is not maintained," said Dr. James O. Hill.

A multicenter, nationwide study in the United States was recently conducted for a year to determine an effective means for prevention of weight regain and a long-term weight management. The study showed that together with hypoenergetic dieting and the partial inhibition of dietary fat absorption through the use of pharmacologic intervention of the weight-loss drug Xenical (Orlistat), subjects achieved a long-term weight maintenance after weight loss. They also sustained greater improvements in cardiovascular disease risk factors over the one-year treatment.



DIETHELM ACQUIRES MYSAP.COM

Diethelm Philippines Inc., a leading distributor of pharmaceutical products, recently acquired mySAP.com as part of its strategy to integrate the company's business processes and provide an efficient information system to support future growth. Diethelm Philippines is part of the Diethelm Keller Siber Hegner (DKSH) group, which is an SAP global account. The group is currently conducting a rollout of mySAP.com to its Asian offices, and Thailand and the Philippines were chosen as the pilot

implementation sites. Shown are (seated, from left) Evasio Barbero, DKSH Healthcare regional business development director, Greg Jones, Diethelm Philippines president and general manager, Ian Black, SAP Philippines managing director, and Jennifer Ligonis, SAP Philippines account manager. Standing are Philip Hall, DKSH regional IT project director, Marivic Segismundo Gamo, SAP Philippines marketing and alliance manager, and Larry Williams, Diethelm Philippines operations director.



BOYET DE LEON CHAMPIONS ORAL CARE

Multi-awarded actor, entertainer and TV host Christopher de Leon takes on his fresh new role as oral care champion for Listerine. De Leon, a longtime Listerine user, chooses the brand over ordinary mouthwash because laboratory tests show that Listerine is proven to kill 99.9 percent of mouth germs

that cause bad breath, plaque and gingivitis. Listerine holds the prestige of being the only mouthwash recognized by the Philippine Dental Association. De Leon is shown here forging the deal with a handshake with Pfizer Consumer Health Care General Manager Rogelio La'o.

The mark of a real champion

WHAT makes a champion?

Strength, endurance, persistence—these are just some of the hallmarks of a real winner, and the same prized traits that separate the men from the boys.

These are the same tenets that inspired the creation of Champion Athleticwear. For more than eight decades now, the brand has become a byword in the playing fields—the official outfitter of such prestigious leagues as the NBA, NFL, USA Basketball as well as major collegiate athletic teams.

Since 1919, Champion has led the way with athletic apparel innovations such as cotton football practice jerseys, hooded sweatshirts, reversible T-shirts, mesh fabrics and nylon shell/pile-lined jackets. It was also the first to introduce polyester and other synthetic fabrics into athletic apparel.

The good news is, from the sweat-drenched confines of college locker rooms to the world's largest sports stadiums, the fa-

miliar Champion logo now moves into an entirely new playing field—the casual wear arena.

Today, Champion Activewear introduces its line of casual apparel and active wear in the Philippines. These include tank tops, drawstring shorts, Raglan muscle shirts, and smart/casual T-shirts with varying necklines and sleeve lengths for men and women. All items bear the distinct Champion logo.

Champion Activewear is available exclusively at Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines (formerly House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call its Hotline at 810-5402, or e-mail customer.relations@saraledirectselling.ph.

In the Philippines, Sara Lee Direct Selling's line of prestigious brands includes Playtex, Wonderbra, Hanes, Hanes Her Way, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS. Versus, Cool Splash!, and Zwitsal.

Auditions for 'Movie Symphony'

AUDITIONS for Wild Vines Movie Symphony instrumental music competition will be held on Oct. 11 at the GSIS Theater, GSIS headquarters building, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Participating groups will present their chosen movie theme songs using various musical instruments of their choice. 10 finalists will be chosen to compete in the finals to be held Nov. 14 at the same venue. Interested applicants are still welcome to sign up. Call the Movie Symphony secretariat at Executive Decisions at 448-5396/98 for details. Wild Vines Movie Symphony is the fifth and final of a series of exciting events sponsored by Wild Vines, the wild new taste in wines.



UMC RECOGNIZES AWARDEE

Universal Motors Corp. (UMC), a frontrunner in the local automotive industry, salutes its most recent awardee Suzette Laquindanum of Core Automotive Resources Inc. (CAR) for her exemplary performance in the area of customer service. Laquindanum bested other candidates from UMC's network of dealerships nationwide.

This recognition is given quarterly at the UMC main office in Makati to honor select Nissan employees who embody the company's commitment to global excellence. Shown are (from left) UMC RMD staff Grace Trinidad, RMD supervisor Sarah Chan, Laquindanum and RMD staff assistants Marlon de Mesa and Ryan Cruz.

Foundation launched

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines-Alpha Sigma Foundation will be formally launched in ceremonies to be held on Oct. 11 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman campus in Quezon City to highlight the 40th anniversary grand homecoming of the fraternity. The Foundation is the fraternity's institutional vehicle for implementing philanthropic endeavors to realize its highest goal, which is humanitarian service. At least 500 alumni and resident brothers from UP Diliman, UP Manila and UP Los Banos will gather to celebrate the event. Dean Raul C. Pangalangan of the UP College of Law will deliver the keynote address focusing on the year's theme "Building Traditions, Building a Nation." All UP Alpha Sigmans are invited. Call the fraternity secretariat at 635-2234 (Agnes), or text 0918-9144006.

Benefits of bee culture

THE TECHNOLOGY and Livelihood Resource Center will hold a seminar in Honeybee Culture on Oct. 11 and 12, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dr. Cleofas Cervancia, director of the Institute of Biological Sciences at UPLB, will discuss the role of bees in improving crop yield, species of honeybees, caste differentiation, colony, breeding, feeding techniques, control of pests and diseases, harvesting, marketing and cost and return analysis. The participants will also go on an observation tour of a bee farm in Los Banos, Laguna, and present products and by-products resulting from the culture of honeybees. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709 and 633-6728 or at 637-4108 to 12 local 605.

Dialysis post-grad course

FRESENIUS Medical Care (FMC), the world's leading integrated provider of products and services for individuals with chronic kidney failure, supports the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) as one of the major sponsors of the 9th Post-graduate Course in Dialysis. Themes "Dialysis in the Critically Ill", the course will be held on Oct. 11 and 12 at the auditorium of NKTi, East Avenue, Quezon City. On Oct. 11, separate symposiums will be held simultaneously for renal nurses and physicians. Scheduled on Oct. 12 is a joint program for nurses and physicians that will tackle critical care support and current dialysis issues. To register or to inquire, call Federico Enriquez at 924-3601 to 10, local 1015.



IMGAME-ABC5 TIE-UP

Since Aug. 12, mobile games provider ImGAME and ABC5 have combined efforts in giving text fanatics an array of interactive voice response system (IVRS) and cell phone-friendly games, also compatible with the Internet and landlines, for irresistible prizes reaching P3 million weekly. Shown at the contract signing Aug. 8 were ABC5's VP for local production Vivian Recio, VP for programs acquisition Victorino Vianzon, and executive VP Roberto C. Limgenco,

together with ImGAME's CEO Robert Sun, president and COO Gilbert Enciso, and sales/marketing manager Dennis Uy. Register for free by sending name, address telephone number, gender, birth date, and e-mail to 2308 (Globe/Touch Mobile) or 208 (Smart/Talk 'n Text), or by dialing 1-908-IAMJOIN using a PLDT landline via the IVRS. The player is issued a 7-character ID/account number and is then introduced to ImGAME's easy-to-play fun games.



APTECH OFFERS FREE IT SEMINARS

Aptech Manila Center, a globally recognized computer education provider, is conducting a series of free seminars on information technology. Comprehensive in nature, the program is comprised of four 3-hour modules that will be held four Saturdays starting Oct. 12. "Basic Networking" gives participants the rudiments of setting up a home or office computer network. "Office Aware" will benefit corporate people and individuals that want sound fundamentals of business software.

"Corel Draw" will be a treat to graphic artists and the artistically inclined. Those interested in web design will have a good rundown of basic HTML programming. This is a brainchild of Aptech Manila GM Edwin Alibuyog (2nd from left, front row, with his team of instructors). On its second year of operations in the country, Aptech boasts of 2,449 training centers in over 52 countries and a 17-year industry track record. For details call 736-2134 to 35.

28th annual Finex confab

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) invites all Finex members to the 28th Annual Finex conference on Oct. 11 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will address the membership and start off the full day of technical sessions. The day's speakers include Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho, chair Cesar EA Virata, and Vicky Garchitorena. The day's activities also include a luncheon panel discussion on "Professional Conduct in the Workplace" featuring Oscar Orbes as interviewer, and Antonio Bernardo, Secretary Vince Perez, Emily Abrera, and Ramon Dimacali. The activities revolve around the conference and organization theme "A Call to Go Beyond Ourselves." For inquiries, call the Finex secretariat at 811-4185.



LI'L HANDS CLUB WELCOMED AT NBS

A warm smile greeted the LI'L Hands Club members and their families when they bought their LI'L Hands art materials at the National Bookstore booth at Dream Town, Robinsons Manila. National Book Store was one of the partners during the LI'L Hands Club 12th Fun Day-Family Day celebration held Aug. 24. Amspec territory sales representative Stephen Jaudian, together with National Book Store branch manager Thelma Abina,

section head Estrella Quita and staff welcomed the art enthusiasts. Members received goodie bags upon registration. Sponsors were Arts & Kraft, Kraft Foods Philippines, Dream Town, Progress, OMF Literature and Filway Marketing. The next LI'L Hands Club Fun Day is on Nov. 16, Saturday, at the RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue corner Dela Costa Street, Makati City. For inquiries, call Amspec at 842-1515 to 17, local 123.

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• Gilmore Heights

• San Francisco Gardens

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• El Jardin del Presidente

• Golf Hill Terraces

BETH 0917-8447940



Transco
NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Regional Operation & Maintenance
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2002-11B

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), Transco wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
A1 5 UNITS	FULLY AUTOMATIC DIELECTRIC STRENGTH OIL TESTER	3PTG-02-066
A2 3 UNITS	TRANSFORMER DISSOLVED GAS ANALYZER	3PTG-02-069
A3 10 PCS	VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER	3PSMD-N-02-197

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:

- 1) A1 - November 05, 2002: 10:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room
- 2) A2 - November 05, 2002: 11:00 AM - at SLT Bidding Room
- 3) A3 - November 05, 2002: 2:00 PM - at SLT Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLT, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per schedule starting October 11, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLT Bidding Room, Transco-SL, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 P.M. on the date specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Initial Technical Proposals of eligible bidders will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "Executive Order 40."

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.D. RAMAS
CHAIRMAN-BAC
TRANSCO SOUTH

(PDI-Oct. 10, 2002)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bid and Awards Committee of the Department of Budget and Management (BAC-DBM) hereby invites interested bidders to a public bidding for janitorial and security services for FY 2003.

Sealed Application for Eligibility and Sealed Bid Documents shall be opened on October 30, 2002. The approved budget for the contracts are P6,476,780.00 for Janitorial Services and P9,744,000.00 for Security Services.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount as herein below indicated:

- Form of Security**
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit
 2. Bank guarantee
 3. Surety bond

Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bidded
One percent (1%)

One and a half percent (1.5%)
Two and a half percent (2.5%)

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Issuance of Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents

Pre-Bid Conference

Deadline for Submission of Sealed Application for Eligibility and Sealed Bid Documents

The sealed bids will be opened immediately after deadline in the same place and on the same date. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part thereof, to waive any defect contained therein and may accept the bid, which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) CYNTHIA G. CASTEL
Undersecretary and
Chairperson, DBM-BAC
(PDI-Oct. 3 & 10, 2002)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Starting October 3, 2002, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
BAC Secretariat, GSD, Administrative Service
G/F Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila

October 16, 2002
9:30 a.m. (Janitorial) 1:00 p.m. (Security)
AS Conf. Room, G/F Mabini Hall
Malacañang, Manila

October 30, 2002
9:30 a.m. (Janitorial) 1:00 p.m. (Security)
AS Conf. Room, G/F Mabini Hall
Malacañang, Manila



The Organization

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Philippines grants the wishes of children afflicted with life threatening illnesses to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy. An affiliate of the largest and most respected wish-granting organization in the world, the foundation is run by dedicated volunteers who strive to make a difference in the lives of sick children and their families.

The Job: Administrative Officer

The position will provide administrative support by performing tasks in, but not limited to, administration, bookkeeping, marketing and training. The position will also act as office secretary reporting directly to the President.

- Perform administrative and secretarial tasks
- Take part in, assist, and follow-up on marketing calls/presentations
- Conduct training seminars and activities
- Assist in wish-granting activities or special projects
- Training opportunities abroad
- Salary range P9,000-12,000 depending on experience

Candidate Requirements

- Must be at least 22 yrs, not older than 35 years
- College graduate with good scholastic record
- Good moral background; strong sense of social awareness; willingness to work long hours
- Strong interest in social or volunteer work
- Must have at least 3 years working experience; experience with a reputable charity-NGO or International organization a major plus
- Must have excellent communication skills, oral and written
- Knowledgeable with MS Office applications

Candidates must send an application letter, resumé, 2x2 photo & transcript of records not later than November 15 to:

Make-A-Wish Foundation Philippines
PO Box 8377
Dasmariñas Village
Makati City 1222



Share the Power of a Wish®



The Pet Pantry®
Nutrition you can trust. Service you can depend on.™

Free Delivery of All Natural Super Premium Dog Food
Lamb & Rice Premium

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Puppy Premium
Select Low Fat
Beef with Barley
Maintenance Diet

Guaranteed No Chemical Preservatives and No By-Products.
For Free Delivery or Franchising Inquiry, Please call:
9281991 / 9274181

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Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call 912-9008 to 11.



OBITUARIES

*"Remember me with smiles and laughter
for that is how I will remember you."*

BENIGNO LABOG
ZIALCITA, JR.

*Peacefully joined his Creator on October 8, 2002
at the age of 88.*

His loving wife **Pilar**; his children **Danny** and **Leonor**, **Manny** and **Sylvia** (+), **Nonny** and **Cristie**; grandchildren **Beth**, **Michael** and **Lalaine**; **Franz**, **Edmund** and **Ailea**, **Christine**, **Bettina** and **Martin**, **Bambi** and **Chris**; **Benjie**, **Martin** and **Bryce**; great grandchildren **Charina** and **Clio**; **Iya**, **Sandra** and **Adu**; and **Sam**, request for your prayers.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the Manila North Cemetery, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

*"I am the resurrection and the life,
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
And whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."*

Our Dearly Beloved

SR. SUPT. ARNULFO NOBLES ESPIRITU

PMA, Class 1777

His loving wife **NIKKI**; his children **CHRISTINA**, **ANNA VICTORIA**, **LEE ANN** and **ROBERT**; his parents **LEE** (+), **ADELA**; sisters **DELILAH** and **ELLEN**; brothers **LOUIE** and **ALVIN**; brother/sisters-in-law **DORU**, **BETH** and **ROSA** nephews and nieces and other relatives, classmates and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Camp Crame Mortuary.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the Himayang Pilipino after the 8:30 am Mass at the PNP Multi-Faith Chapel.

GLORIA N. CEA

November 5, 1922 – October 6, 2002

**Baras, Canaman, Camarines Sur
& Naga City**

*Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 6, 2002.*

Her late husband **Edmundo B. Cea** (+); children **Norma C. Pappas** & **Diana C. Gozum**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 10, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at the Tigaon Catholic Cemetery, Camarines Sur.

**I am
the way,
the
truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.**

John 14:6



*An obituary with a picture can
be a fitting tribute to your
departed loved one.*

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

**WE ACCEPT
CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
① Copy of Death Certificate
② Any identification document (I.D.)

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN**

OBITUARIES

DIEGO "Jun" A. SEVILLA, JR.

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 8, 2002 at the age of 66.*

His wife Nelia Llamas, children and children-in-law Carol & Mario, Ricky & Aida, Bobit & Espie, and Tin-Tin; grandchildren Matthew, Anton & Gabe, brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on October 12, 2002, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass, at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.



Our Dearly Beloved ANDREW RANDAHL REYNOSO-REYES

Freshman, Business Management Student,
De La Salle University

*Peacefully joined his Creator and His angels
on Monday, October 7, 2002 at the age of 18.*

His loving parents Arnel and April; sister Andrea; paternal grandparents Engr. & Mrs. Andres Reyes; maternal grandmother Elsie S. Cuevas (Mamel); uncles and aunts; and cousins request all pious readers to please remember Andrew in your prayers.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City and to be transferred to La Salle, Greenhills at the National Shrine of the Divine Child Church on October 11, 2002.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass.

MARINA MOJARES ARANDA

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on October 09, 2002 at the age of 69.

Her loving husband Vic, children Lots and Gerry, Ray and Vanessa, Joy; her grandchildren Ram, Mig, Isa, Noki, John and Kevin; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park on
October 12, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the
Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City.



PURIFICACION PANGILINAN KHO (PURING QUE)

of Daet, Camarines Norte and Malolos, Bulacan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on the 4th of October 2002.

Her bereaved children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Martha Memorial Home, Bagasbas Road, Daet, Camarines Norte.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 13, 2002 in Daet Chinese Cemetery at 8:00 a.m.

*For the needs of your departed Loved Ones,
the following establishments can help you.*

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City • Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760

AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan • Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976

CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Bantad, Mandaue City, Cebu • Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City • Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Canus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City • Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City • Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3588; 413-9400; 715-5594

DALLWAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaikan, Olongapo City • Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City • Tel. 894-5932 to 34

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinapighan St., Manugulit, Manila • Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila • Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City • Tels. (045) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247

PAKET SAINT GUERIN FUNERAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City • Tels. 646-1726; 646-1730

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No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City • Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735

M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila • Tels. 642-3010; 633-3002

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas • Tels. 673-0507; 873-0024

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
885 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City • Tels. 890-3556; 899-6191

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011 • Tels. (044) 764-0261; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603

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145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite • Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675

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Sucat, Parañaque City • Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291

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#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur • Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5690136; (0917) 5680145

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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalayaan St., Quezon City • Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque • Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City • Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite • Tels. (046) 471-3396; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1976

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City • Tels. 895-1011 to 19

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
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Marcos Highway, Antipolo, Rizal • Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210

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214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila • Tel. Nos. 254-0897, 254-0839

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Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Beccolod City • Tel. 433-7132

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Camantina St., Pasay City • Tels. 831-1204

Sucut Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City • Tels. 829-1976; 829-0682; (0915) 712-1220

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City • Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City • Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Megallanes Village, Makati City • Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284

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16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loro St., Sampaaloc, Manila • Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
266 Quezon Ave., Quezon City • Tels. 372-6094; 410-9288/87

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City • Tels. 831-3797; 844-7646; 843-1801; 845-4038

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila • Tels. 622-8946; 622-8438; 400-5394



Maybelle Tiro Cruz
[October 26, 1957 – October 10, 2001]

You quietly, peacefully left us a year ago today, yet you are still with us in the fragrance of the flowers in the garden that you made and in the tender glow of our full moon. We miss you so much, beloved Wife and Mommy – your innocent beauty, your smile, your voice, your conversation, your playfulness, your poise. Dear Maybelle, you are still with me in the wonderful memories of our life together that continue to warm my heart like your sweet and comforting caress. Dearest Mommy, you will always be with me to guide and color my growing years.

With you, we say thanks to our cherished friends and family who condoled with us a year ago, as you blissfully soared to your new Home with the Lord. Their warmth then made our parting less mournful and turned it into a moment of grateful joy. The year would have been harder to end without their continuing embrace.

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved

Ernesto "Boy" Vergara

May 19, 1958 - October 10, 2001

On the occasion of his First Death Anniversary, we request your prayers for our brother and loving friend Boy, his thoughtfulness, generosity of spirit and his joyful energy will always live in our hearts and minds.

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

1. National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes 6:00 am
Quezon City
2. San Lorenzo Ruiz Manor Basilica .. 5:00 am & 6:15 am
Binondo, Manila
3. Sto. Niño Parish Church 6:00 am & 6:00 pm
Tondo, Manila
4. St. Andrew Parish Church 6:00 am & 6:00 pm
Parañaque
5. Las Piñas Church
(Bamboo Organ) 6:00 am & 6:00 pm
Las Piñas
6. Christ The King 6:00 am
Greenmeadow, Quezon City
7. St. Joseph Convent of
Perpetual Adoration 6:00 am
Quezon City
8. Mary the Queen Church 6:00 am
San Juan
9. Mt. Carmel Church 6:00 am
New Manila, Quezon City
10. Santuario De San Antonio 6:15 am
Forbes Park, Makati
11. Sto. Cristo Parish Church 6:00 am
Valenzuela City
12. Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish 6:00 am
Quezon City

BUSINESS

Anemic Asia set for bumpy ride in 2003

SINGAPORE—Asia's fragile export-driven economies are headed for a year of modest growth, but polling by Reuters show the domestically driven leaders in 2002, like China and South Korea, could well be the laggards next year.

The polls of regional analysts found Thailand, South Korea and China would post lower gross domestic product growth in 2003 than in 2002, primarily because policymakers were expected to take some of the heat out of their searing domestic economies.

The rest of the region, including

Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India and Malaysia, are set to improve. Those uneven growth prospects are, however, laced with risks.

Economists predict the region will be unable to shake off weaknesses such as the lack of pricing power, contagious deflation and a vulnerability to external shocks.

"Growth is disappointingly below trend, there is a deep deflationary trend and no pick-up in private investment," said Desmond Supple, an economist at Barclays Capital.

Last month, the Asian Development Bank forecast average

growth in the region at 5 percent in 2002 and 5.7 percent in 2003.

The risk that the United States, Asia's biggest export market, would fail to recover in 2003 found big play in the Reuters polls on trade balances.

With the exception of the Philippines and Singapore, the forecasts showed trade surpluses shrinking and deficits widening in the region next year.

Agricultural economies India and Philippines could recover from the impact of poor monsoons and the El Niño weather pattern. *Reuters*

Go slow on China, FPI tells gov't

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Industries is urging the government to go slow on the proposed integration of China into the Asean Free Trade Area.

The FPI said the Macapagal administration should first make sure that China would comply with its free trade commitments. The government should also give local

companies more time to prepare for stiffer competition, it added.

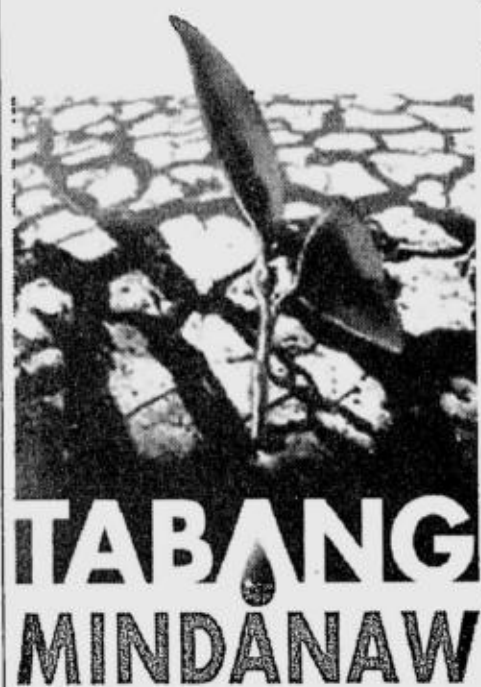
In a letter addressed to Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, FPI chair Meneleo Carlos said unless it could bring down the costs of doing business in the country, the government should push for the full realization of the Asean-China market only by 2013 or later.

"If the consensus among Asean ministers is to engage in a gradual

free-trade arrangement with China, the government must lose no time in providing our industries with a competitive platform or else whatever remains of them will be forced to move elsewhere," Carlos said.

During the recent Asean summit in Brunei, Asean leaders set a 10-year period within which to fully integrate China into Afta, but most leaders expect the regional block to start operating by 2010.

Toyota Classics to help Tabang Mindanaw III



In line with its commitment to build a better world through the arts, Toyota Motor Corporation intends to donate the entire proceeds of the Toyota Classics 2002 to support the humanitarian assistance program of Tabang Mindanaw III.

Tabang Mindanaw III is the third massive program of action aimed at alleviating the hardships of the people of Mindanaw. It is currently focused on providing assistance to the Filipinos displaced from Malaysia to enable them to settle and sustain their lives in their own country.

Tabang Mindanaw III not only supplements government assistance to the emergency food and medical needs but also calls on people and institutions of goodwill to come together and help create opportunities in the areas of Sulu, Tawi-tawi and Basilan where they are being settled.

Toyota will be supporting this mission through what is expected to be the biggest Toyota Classics musical event. Touring 11 territories across Southeast Asia, the Toyota Classics 2002 is featuring Spain's foremost orchestra, the Cadaques Orchestra, which is renowned throughout Europe for its ambitious and artistic style.

Conducting the performance will be widely acclaimed French conductor, Philippe Entremont, who has worked with many of the world's finest orchestras while simultaneously attaining notable success as a pianist. Additionally, this year's Toyota Classics will feature solos from prominent Filipino tenor Leodigario B. Del Rosario and Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey, a guitarist known worldwide for his astounding technique and sensitive interpretations.

Through this gift of music, Toyota Classics lives up to its commitment to help build a better world through the arts. Come and experience the grace and exaltation of not only listening to the world's finest classical music but also of helping in a great humanitarian cause.

Toyota Classics 2002 will be held at the Meralco Theatre in Ortigas, Pasig City on October 25, 2002, 7PM. Tickets are priced at P1,500, P1,000, P800 and P500. They are now available at TicketWorld Outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills) and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-5610 for inquiry and reservations.

Cadaques Orchestra

Philippe Entremont
conductor

José María Gallardo del Rey
guitar

Leodigario Del Rosario
tenor

Working in concert to build a better world

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All proceeds will be donated to Tabang Mindanaw III

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

A curious curry or how Sepoys contributed to Filipino cookery

THE JOYFUL COOK



Felice Prudente Sta. Maria

THE JOYFUL Chef was on her way to Antipolo for some freshly harvested cashews. The stalls around the churchyard sell the nuts shelled, or shelled and roasted. Despite the area's air pollution and traffic, the trip still recalls rhythms of the past when even Jose

A CURIOUS/ p.C6

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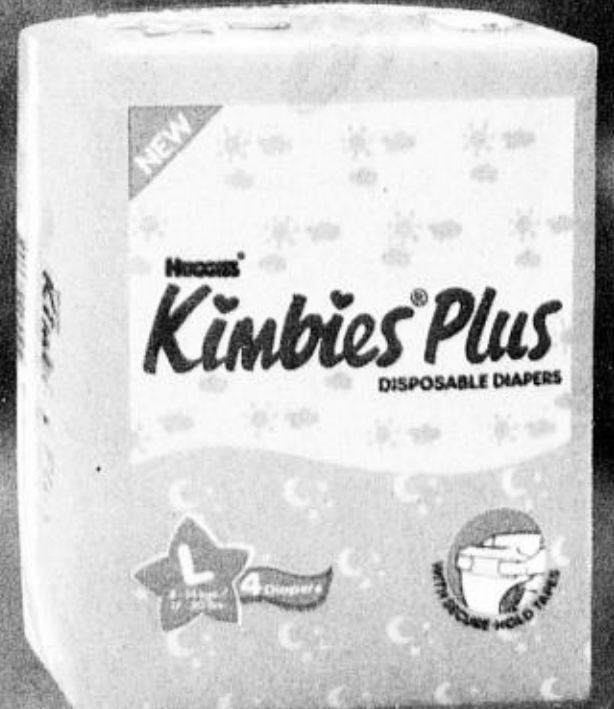
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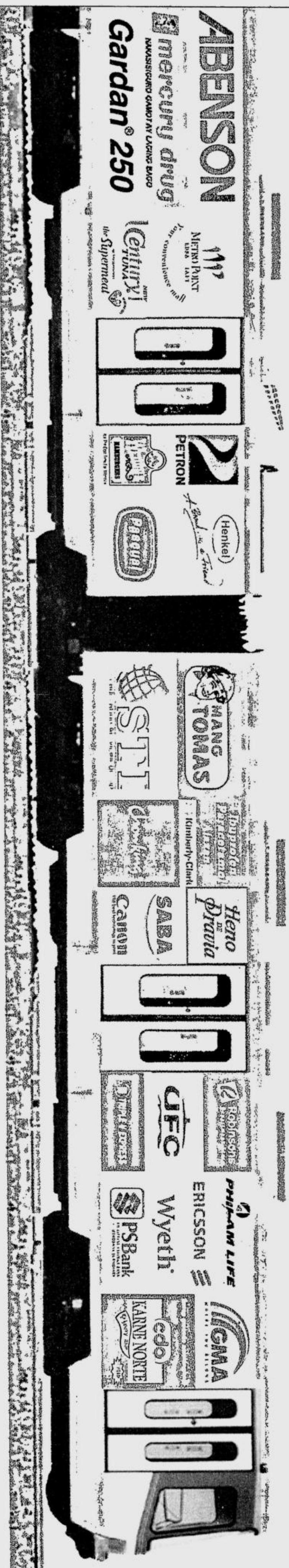
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Abusive consumers should not be tolerated

JUDGING from the number of complaints received by consumer welfare desks at various business establishments, Filipinos are increasingly becoming aware of their rights as consumers. But some consumers tend to abuse those rights, intentionally or not.

We gathered some complaints resolved by the consumer welfare desks (CWD), and here's an example.

A shopper complained that the black seaweed she bought at the supermarket was "spoiled and emitting bad odor." She wanted to return the item, and possibly get back the money she paid amounting to P1,447.87.

The buyer's complaint was looked into right then and there at the CWD. It was established that the item was in "good condition and fit for human consumption" when purchased. The buyer eventually admitted that she "made a mistake buying the item and just wanted to know if she could return it." The CWD officer said the establishment decided to refund the customer's money out of "goodwill." On the other hand, the customer reportedly apologized and admitted her fault.

We commend CWDs for mediating conflicts between business establishments and consumers. However, we don't think they should condone abuses by buyers. We believe consumers should learn to fight for their rights but should also know the boundaries and limits of those rights.

Buyers' complaints desk

More and more consumers are using the CWDs to get their complaints acted on. Here is a report from the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection of the Department of Trade and Industry. The first quarter of this year recorded 14,230 complaints as compared to 11,115 complaints filed last year in the same period. Number of resolved cases was 10,582 cases in 2001 and 13,694 this year.

Way back in 1982, the DTI's consumer welfare desks were found only in provincial field offices. Today, some 2,278 CWDs and 829 suggestion/complaint boxes are found in public wet markets, grocery stores, supermarkets, appliance shops, schools, consumer organizations and DTI agencies.

CWD competition

Final judging is over for the nationwide search for outstanding CWDs in business establishments organized by the DTI. Winners will be announced any time now. Having been privileged to be a juror, we're sharing with the readers the criteria used in choosing the winners: resolution of cases, compliance with price tag and other fair trade laws, products should have the DTI-Bureau of Product Standard certificate of approval or Import Commodity Clearance certificate, etc.

Other judges were lawyer Zenaida Reyes, president of the Consumer Federated Groups of the Philippines; director Meynard Orbeta of the Bureau of Domestic Trade; director Rhodora Leaño of the Bureau of Small, Medium Enterprise Development; Margaret Jao-Grey, columnist of the Philippine Star; Citem director Felicidad V. Tan-Co; and DTI assistant secretary Zenaida Cuison-Maglaya.

Walmart has CWD

Publicist Ayo Gunting says: "In an effort to empower the Filipino consumers, Walmart and the DTI-National Capital Region forged recently a partnership to set up consumer

welfare desks in three Waltermart branches—Arnaiz Avenue in Quezon City, Don Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City and Pearl Plaza in Parañaque. The desks will answer consumer complaints and queries."

Complaints and comments

Among consumers who demand full satisfaction of their consumer rights are some members of the PDI Lifestyle family.

Linda Bolido has this complaint: "Calling BPI I have earned 961 points under the BPI express credit card's frequent user privilege program which, supposedly, I can exchange for some gift items. Since I was so busy to claim my gift, and the deadline was Sept. 30, I tried calling up the 89-100, the express phone service, several times the day before the deadline, as specified in the brochures. Consumer service people were always busy. So I tried to leave a message, per instruction on the automated answering service, but although I tried several numbers, I got the same advisory: 'Sorry you cannot leave a message now because this mailbox is full.'"

"I want to claim my gift and I'm hoping to

THE CONSUMER



Marietta Velasco Giron

exchange my points for a P1,300 Rustan's gift check. It is actually worth only 875 points, but it's the closest I can get and the only one I want from the catalog."

Lito Zulueta is exasperated every time he calls and gets one of those interactive voice response systems. He complained particularly about Bayantel's automated phone information service. According to him, every time he dialed the number to talk to a customer relations person, the phone would buzz for a few seconds then the line would be cut off.

Readers write

F. Duque of Malabon asked, "Why is it that at Metrobank in Malabon, depositors are asked to buy dollars first before they can pay through their credit cards for purchases made through the Internet? One has to wait in line to buy the needed dollars at the current exchange rate. When I send my representative to pay, she is asked to wait until the final dollar rate exchange is known. She happened to arrive early at the bank and was told to come back after lunch when the final exchange rate for the day would be known."

Why doesn't the bank just accept the peso equivalent?"

Maricel San Agustin complained: "I am disappointed with the ISP Bonanza prepaid Internet card. Connection takes a long time and once you get connected, it is so slow even at midnight. I use the dial-up connection from Cavite."

Disgruntled reader

Wilma Redler of skytech@yahoo.com wrote: "I was reading 'Good buys at weekend farmers market' with much interest. It was a place I would like to visit until I read the part about 'Pleasant surprises.' I read in horror that you actually made mention of dried wild boar meat and dried deer meat. For your information, maybe you should get a copy of the Endangered Wild Animals Act. Evidently, you are not up-to-date on the laws of the Philippines. For you and the paper to advertise these illegal acts is not only disgusting; it is very wrong and you are condoning illegal acts."

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

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LPG distributor treats its loyal customers

SHELLANE'S loyal Hatid Bahay customers were recently treated to a cooking show with master chef Rico de Leon of the Center for Culinary Arts Manila at Shell House, Makati.

"By way of thanking our loyal Hatid Bahay customers for their continuous patronage of Shellane, we thought of holding a cooking show for them. Through this event, we had a chance of meeting them and talking to them personally. We were glad to find out that we have customers who have been using Shellane for almost 35 years now," said Shellane marketing manager Lorenzo Gella.

During the cooking show, Shellane LPG distributor management executive Abie Chua conducted a talk on the correct usage of Shellane and how to determine the distinguishing marks of a genuine Shellane tank, such as the orange security seal and the Shell embossed logo.

Exciting prizes such as Shellane wall clocks, coin banks and gift packs from Shellane and cosponsors Tefal and Pillsbury were raffled off. Two grand prize winners each took home a two-burner stove including a Shellane LPG tank, Recca regulator and hose, while the third grand prize winner got a Tefal toaster.

Starting Oct. 15, Shellane will give away 78 units of Nokia 3310 with Smart prepaid SIM cards every month for lucky Shellane customers and corresponding retail outlets nationwide.

The Shellane Cellphone Buwan-Buwan promo is open to all customers who purchase Shellane from any authorized Shellane retail outlet, distributor showroom, direct sales team or through the Shellane Hatid Bahay/Home Delivery.

A customer gets one raffle coupon for every refill of 11-kg cylinder or cylinder swap, two raffle coupons for every purchase of an 11-kg cylinder with refill, and four raffle coupons for every stove promo package purchase.

Monthly draws will be held on Nov. 29 and on Jan. 10 and 30, 2003. Deadline for submission of entries for the first monthly draw is on Nov. 15. The promo will run until Jan. 15, 2003.

The Shellane Cellphone Buwan-Buwan is Shellane's way of thanking its customers for making Shellane a part of their lives.

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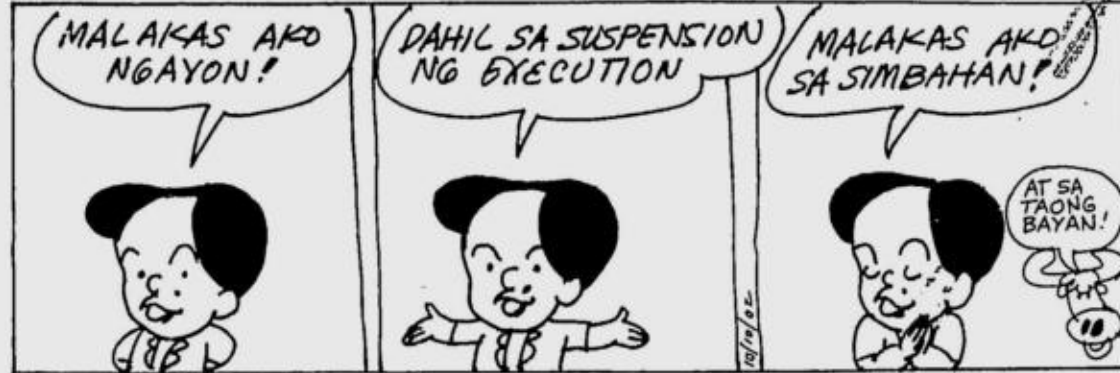
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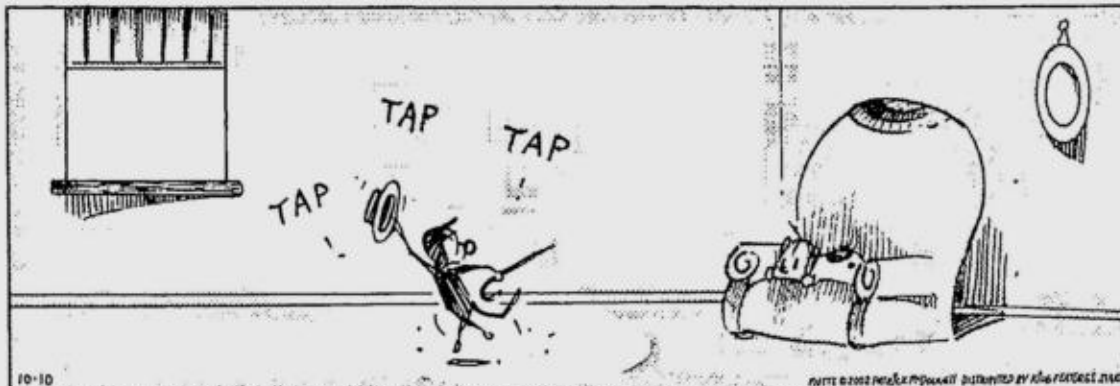


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julia Sweeney, Ben Vereen, David Lee Roth, Tanya Tucker
Happy Birthday: Your strength and courage will help you outmaneuver anyone who challenges you. Your goals should be set and you shouldn't deviate from them. Take the initiative to do what you feel is right. You will have the creative foresight to turn any bad situation you encounter into something positive and good. Your numbers are 3, 8, 13, 20, 31, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Financial limitations should not stand in the way of having fun. There are so many inexpensive activities, and walks in the park are free. You can create an entertaining and romantic atmosphere at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your energetic nature will help you reach your deadline. Just stay focused on what needs to be done and follow through. If someone at work or school is critical of your work, don't take it to heart.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will find that someone at work may be disturbing you and creating a feeling of uneasiness in the work place. Deception and exaggeration will be a problem. Try to avoid getting involved in gossip.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Passion should be on your mind, and a quiet evening for two should be your goal. Don't bring your work home with you. It will interfere with your personal life more than you think.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your creative drive should help you finish some of the hobbies you've been working on for some time. Get out and meet new people. You will be praised for your ability to organize social events.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you believe in a cause strongly enough, consider taking a stand. The strength of your convictions will inspire others to join in. With others on board, fund-raising will not be as difficult as you first anticipated.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can use your communication skills to influence those in higher positions to back you in your endeavors. Use your sophistication and charm to make your venture successful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your emotional well-being will be dependent on how your mate treats you. Don't let your jealousy get out of hand. Be careful not to make any accusations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your intuition will be strong. Your perceptions of those around you will be correct. Joint financial business deals look prosperous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your honest and open communication can clear up misunderstandings that may have been causing emotional problems with parents. Be loving and diplomatic and your parental difficulties will dissolve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Travel will lead to romantic encounters that could become quite serious very quickly. Depression may result due to the distance between you. Look into a transfer that will eliminate the problem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will pick up information quickly today. Attend some lectures or do some research that will help you produce better work. You would be wise to look into courses that offer a variety of creative computer skills.

Birthday Baby: You will be hard to keep up with and difficult to understand. You will not be afraid to use brute force when necessary and will never back down from an adverse situation.

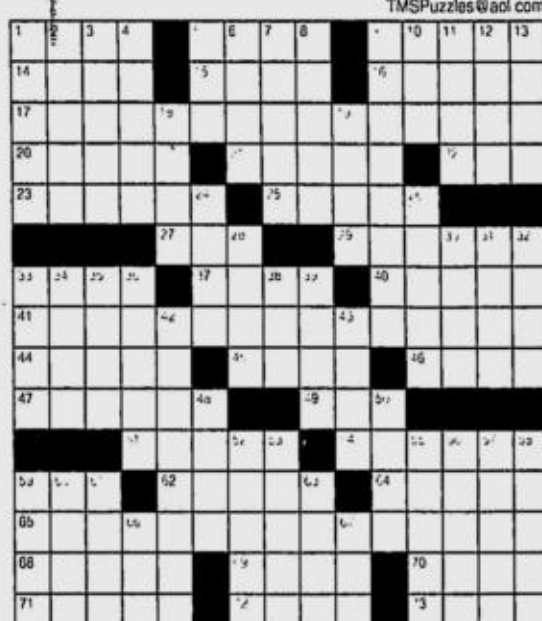
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Early video game
- 5 Poet Ogden
- 9 Clunker car
- 14 Brilliant fish
- 15 Periodic table info.
- 16 Got up
- 17 What this is
- 20 Rich or Castle
- 21 Low point
- 22 Decay
- 23 Sampled
- 25 Extinct birds
- 27 Disney dwarf
- 29 In the arms of Morpheus
- 33 Woe is me
- 37 Dog dogger
- 40 The Divine Bernhardt
- 41 What this is
- 44 Houston player
- 45 Trail
- 46 Solidifies
- 47 Dwell
- 49 Paddle
- 51 Sponsorship
- 54 Three lines of verse
- 59 RR stop
- 62 Slow, in music
- 64 Of the cheekbone
- 65 What this is
- 68 Close, poetically
- 69 Zeno's home
- 70 Tied
- 71 Trousers
- 72 Hiker's quarters
- 73 Take a breather

DOWN

- 1 Postulate
- 2 "The Medium" or "The Bat"
- 3 Parts of churches
- 4 Flemish capital
- 5 "King" Cole
- 6 Egyptian sun god
- 7 Masters champion of 1949, '52 and '54
- 8 John Wayne movie

By Jack Hammond
Savannah, GA

10/10/02

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

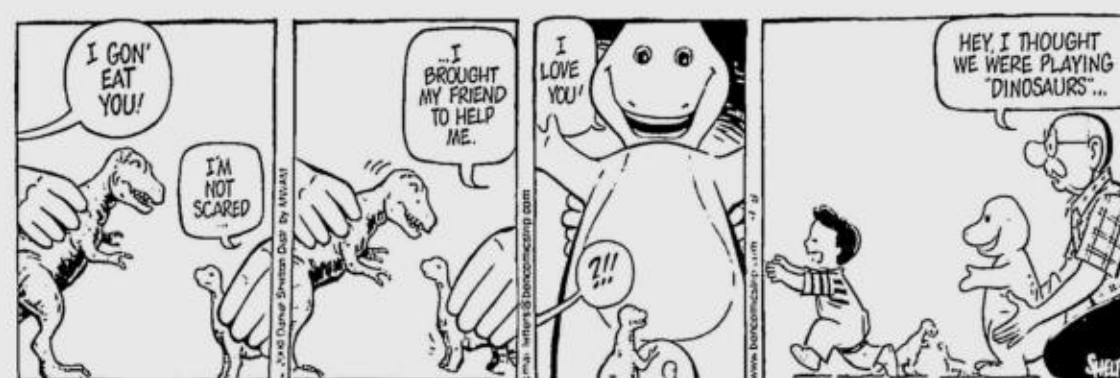


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- 9 Wisconsin city on the Mississippi
- 10 Go astray
- 11 Othello, for one
- 12 buco
- 13 Abele abode
- 18 Poverty
- 19 Verdi heroine
- 24 Take off
- 26 Informal vocabulary
- 28 Cut back
- 30 Art Deco designer
- 31 British nobleman
- 32 Part of P.E.
- 33 A way away
- 34 Come in last
- 35 Liberal follower
- 36 Glacially produced grooves
- 38 Notable time
- 39 Concerning
- 42 Tyrolean singers
- 43 Well, can you beat _?
- 48 Hungarian river
- 50 de Gourmont
- 52 Map in a map
- 53 Steps over a fence
- 55 Decathlete Johnson
- 56 Owen or Barker
- 57 Place for icicles
- 58 City on the Adige
- 59 Easy task
- 60 Bonito
- 61 The last word
- 63 Span of a cart
- 66 Night flyer
- 67 Make lace

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



GENG'S GAMES

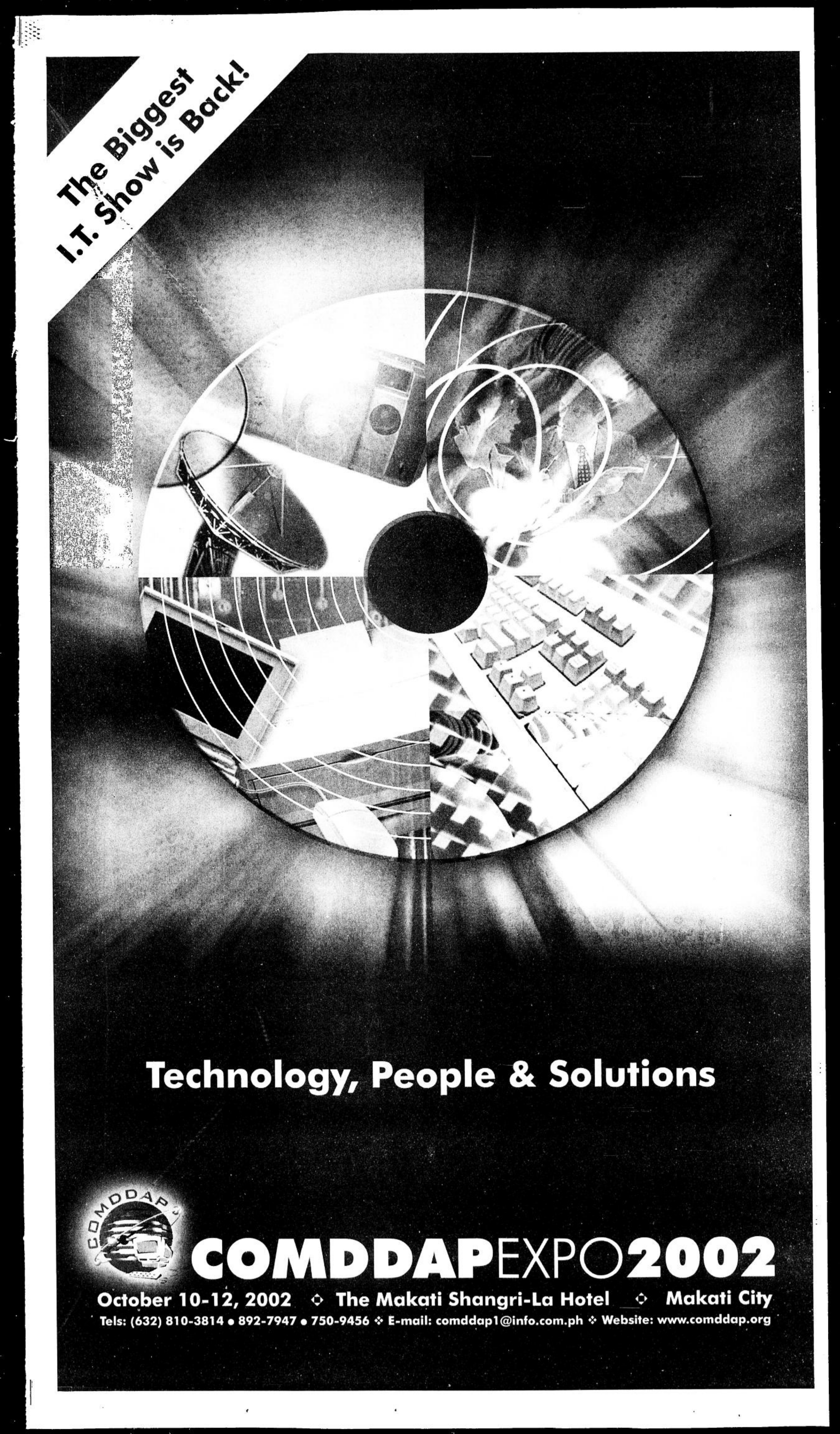
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A curious curry or how Sepoys contributed to Filipino cookery

From page C1

Rizal, as a little boy, visited with his father. The journey from Calamba fulfilled the elder's *panata*, a promise should divine aid ease his wife's birthing pangs.

Pilgrims then as now were local tourists. During the Marian month of May, families rented houses for the month, and frolicked at Hinulugang Taktak when it used to be a real waterfall and not the mere trickle of today. In pre-motorcar days, the trip to Antipolo used to be riverine down the Pasig till around Cainta where one could select from hiking up, riding on horseback or lying on a hammock carried by skilled porters.

'Carinderia'

In the early 1800s, a new word crept into Philippine dictionaries: *carinderia*. It meant a native shop that sold cooked food. On a trip from Bae Lake, a French doctor observed in the 1840s that the

site of *carinderias* along Pasig River signaled that the capital was near. The first *carinderias* were likely in Cainta and its neighboring pueblo, Taytay, almost five kilometers from the entrance to the lake and 18 km from Manila. They sold the latest food fashion: *cari*—also spelled *kari* even then—or something akin to it.

The major clue to the etymology of *carinderia* was provided by Wenceslao Emilio Retana y Gamboa in *Diccionario de Filipinismos* published in 1921. He claimed it came from *curry*, or *kari* in Tagalog.

Surprises

"I can't believe *karinderias* sold curry," said TJC to Saint Sandok when she returned to Cavite with her nuts. "Curry never really caught on. We don't even cook curry the way they do on the subcontinent."

"They likely sold *karikari*," he replied.

"Wait a minute. You can't talk," she said staring at her favorite *sandok*, an heirloom passed on by favorite paternal grand aunt, Lola Uning.

"I can, too," he said, while making himself glow golden.

For a minute, TJC thought she was imagining the scenario. She sat down on the *gallinera* near the kitchen door, wondering if she was just suffering from fatigue. "This can't be happening to me," she mumbled. "Spoons can't talk."

"I can, too," said Saint Sandok. "It's about time we started conversing with each other. After all, I've been around so long and haven't been able to share my stories with anyone except Martha."

"And who's Martha?"

"Why, the most beautiful *santo* in your chapel. She's the one who gave me my nickname, Saint Sandok. Isn't it great? Saint Sandok. All because she heard the Spanish-time riddle, 'Who's the saint of the kitchen?' and the answer, 'Sandok.'"

The poor Joyful Cook. She not only had a talking *sandok*, but a talking *santo*.

"Don't worry, you'll get used to us," said Saint Sandok. "You've been talking to me all these years anyway, just like my friend Uning. She and I used to have such wonderful chats."

"You mean that's why she told me never to lose you, never to abandon you? But she never told me there was anything magical about you."

"Well, magic presents itself at the right time. And right now, you better let me share what I know about the times I actually experienced."

'Karikari'

"Come on, Saint Sandok. By no stretch of the imagination is *karikari kari*," said TJC, suddenly relaxed and growing accustomed to her new companion.

"It's not meant to be. That's why it's *karikari*. Following the linguistic nuances of Tagalog, reduplication implies

either emphasis or pretense. *Karikari* could mean either very good curry or fake curry. Such is the enigmatic personality of words. *Karikari* is an attempt, fanciful as it may seem, to be a curry.

"There's another word in 19th-century Tagalog dictionaries that's related to our talk about the *karinderia*: *karihan*, another place that sold *kari*. See the pattern: a *pasteleria* sold pastel, pies, desserts and snacking pastries; a *dulceria* sold dulces, divine sugary goodies and simple candies; a *panaderia* sold pan, bread; a *cafeteria* sold café, coffee; and a *panciteria* sold pancit, cooked noodles," the wise Sandok added.

'Kari'

The story of curry in the country includes a remembrance of the two years that the British empire ruled Manila. When Draper's troops were about to depart in March 1764, he discovered a tempest in his own teapot: 800 Sepoys mutinied. Natives of India, who were forced to serve a colonial army, preferred to settle in the Philippines. Draper sailed back to Madras without them. They, in turn, were allowed to convert to Christianity, marry local women and peacefully integrate in the Cainta and Taytay areas.

In Tamil, "*kari*" means sauce or stew. It does not mean spice, although Southern India is known for its fiery *sambars*. In earlier ancient times, it meant black pepper, an important ingredient in dressing meat prior to pre-Aryan settlement in India. If the Sepoys were indeed Muslims and not Hindi, as suggested by one Spanish report, then the use of oxtail in *karikari* is not surprising.

Karikari is prepared as a regular stew rather than a curry with spices fried first in ghee before simmering in liquid. The butter and spices needed for curry are not native to Cainta or Taytay. A Tagalog *karikari* recipe, at least 50 years old, includes: *bituka*, *talong*, *goto*, *sitaw*, *buntot baka*, *bataw*, *bigas na binusa*, *atsuete*, *maning binusa*, *asin*, *pusong saging*. *Bagoong guisado* was served on the side. A curry recipe from the early 1900s reflects what was served in Manila hotels as curry even during the pre-Revolution days: chicken with curry powder, "*polvo de kari*."

Now hungry from the thought of *karikari*, TJC decided to plan for a *karikari* lunch. In Cavite, that has to include a side dish of *kilawin* made from white radish, a big *bandejado* of chicken and pork *adobo* rich in fat, and another of steamed shrimp.

"It may be the strangest relation of curry, but *karikari* is a Filipino concoction worth the calories," said the thoughtful Saint Sandok.

Next: Food for souls of all persuasions

Seminar on managing restos, canteens

PROACTIVE Center for Training holds its "Managing a Restaurant Canteen" seminar-workshop on Oct. 9-18, 1-5 p.m. at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, Quezon City.

The seminar is open to restaurateurs, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators, and those planning to go into the food-service business.

Reservations are on a first-come-first-served basis, and only 20 participants will be accepted. Seminar fee is P4,500 per participant, inclusive of field trip to equipment and food suppliers in Metro Manila, manual, handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials. Free shuttle service from SM Megamall will be provided.

The training will cover planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; and cost control. Call 787-6370 or (0919) 550-0601 or e-mail pactraining@hotmail.com.

Courses that will help you start a food business

START your weekend right at the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center with their Saturday classes this month. Enjoy learning courses that can expand your culinary horizon and provide ample know-how in starting a food business.

A catering course will be held on Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn about portion control, costing, inventory, table layout, equipment sourcing and actual preparation of popular Filipino dishes. There is also a hands-on instruction on how to prepare, cook and present dishes.

For a more comprehensive training, take the Bakery and Bakeshop Classes on Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for P1,500. Study commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes. This includes costing and production, plus actual hands-on batching. Or learn the art of Japanese cuisine on Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Once you've learned the basics, try Maya Kitchen's certificate courses for adults. All you have to do is pre-register. The courses for this month include Cooking II and Baking I.

Cooking II is a more comprehensive course for career cooks. Classes will run on Oct. 16-18 and Nov. 6-8, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Baking I will tackle hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick breads, yeast breads and more. The course will run from Oct. 16-18, 1:30-5 p.m. for only P2,000.

Turn your love for cooking into a career this month. Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday to Saturday) at the 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 892-1185 and 892-5011 local 108.



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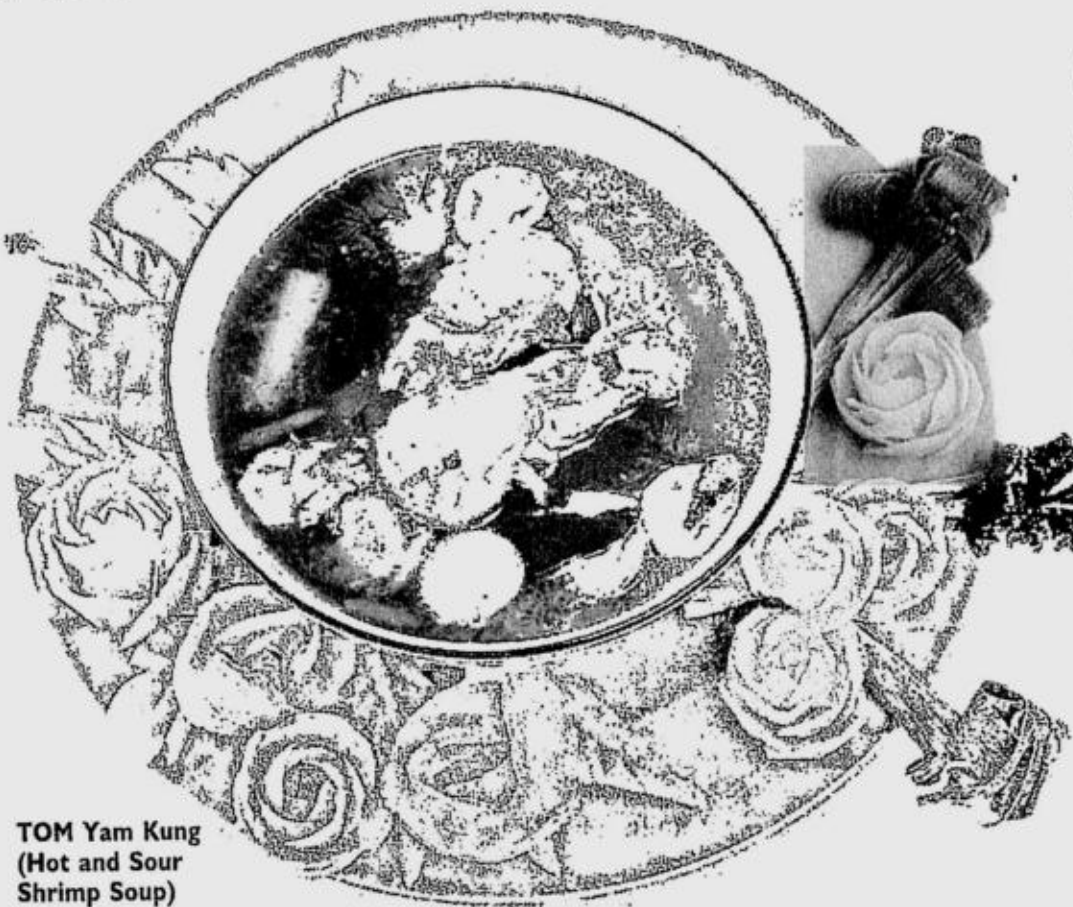
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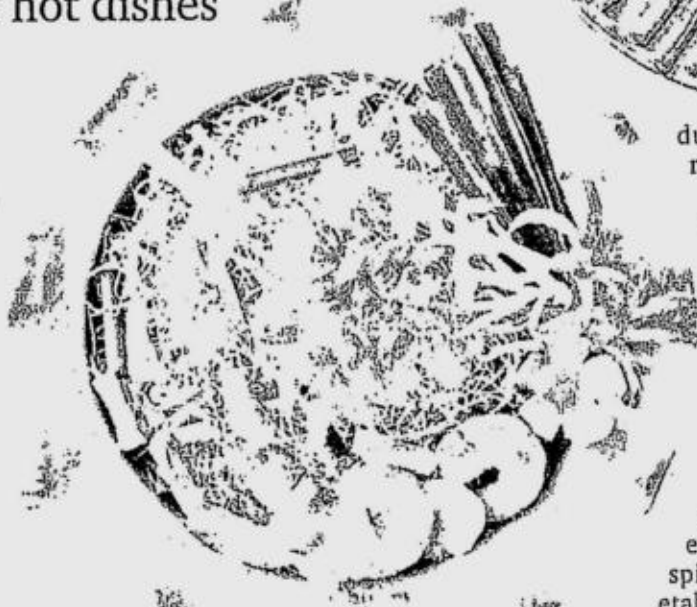
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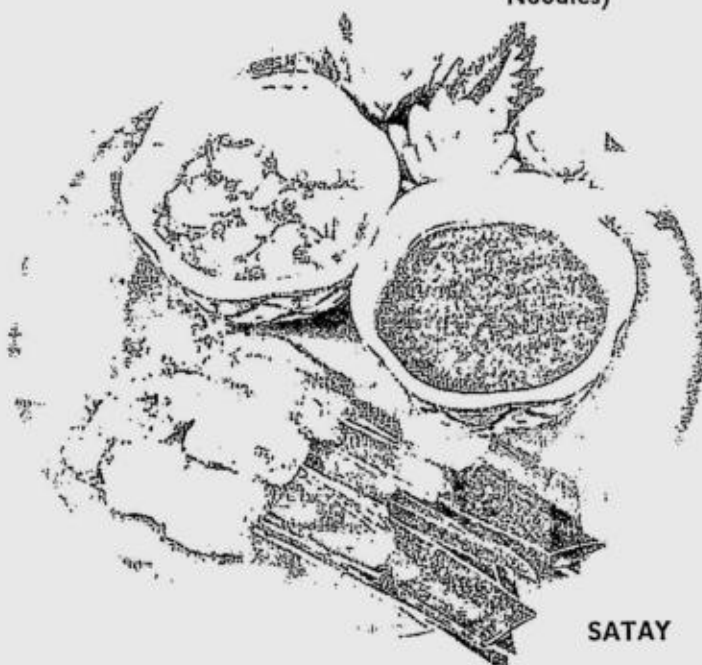
TOM Yam Kung
(Hot and Sour
Shrimp Soup)

Southern Thailand's cuisine is not only rich in seafood but is also the spiciest in a country known for its hot dishes

KAI Yang
(Barbecued
Chicken)

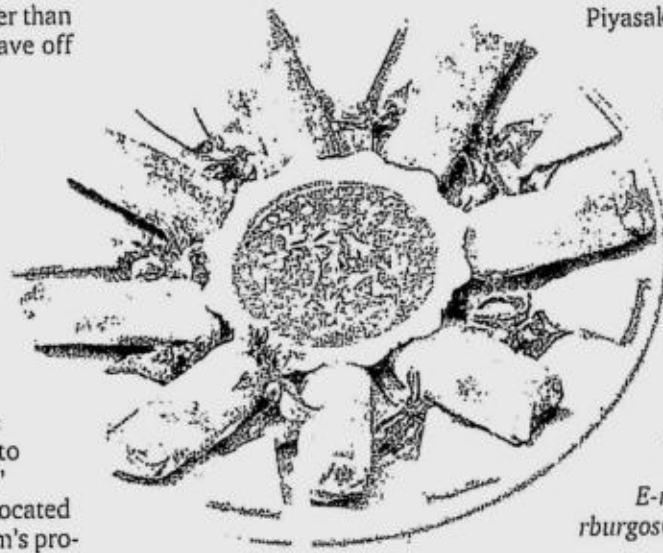


MI Krop (Crispy
Noodles)



SATAY

PO Pia Thot
(Spring Rolls)



duce is available there, and the cuisine reaches the most complex levels.

Many of the Thai curries, such as green and red, are from the Central plains. So are many spicy dishes served at room temperature and flavored with fiery sauces consisting mainly of citrus, fish sauce and fresh chilies.

Surrounded by water, Southern Thailand's cuisine is rich in seafood. It is also the spiciest food in the country. "Classic Southern curries have very intense flavors," says Piyasak. Bangkok curries are comparatively mild and can be eaten almost like soup, he says. Their spiciness is offset by the addition of vegetables and, sometimes, by fruit. Southern curries, on the other hand, have little vegetables and are meant to be spooned over lots of rice. Their flavors are different, too. Southerners make use of lots of fresh turmeric, for example, whereas in most parts of the country, turmeric is used dry and in smaller quantities. Also, while shrimp paste is used to flavor curries in Central Thailand, the South usually uses fermented beans called *tua nac*.

Thailand's regions do share many common culinary characteristics. All Thai meals try to balance hot, sweet, sour, salty and bitter flavors, although the balance could tilt in favor of one, depending on the region. All regions are not very big on desserts. Fruit is more commonly served to end a meal, although frozen desserts are starting to gain wide acceptance. One popular dessert is ice cream or sorbet made of coconut milk.

Group exercise

Ideally, Thai food is eaten by two or more people, principally because the more diners there are, the more dishes are ordered.

Generally speaking, two diners order three dishes to go with individual plates of steamed rice; three diners four dishes, and so on. Diners get from the shared dishes and add it to their rice. Soups are eaten simultaneously with other dishes, not separately as Westerners do. "Spicy dishes are balanced with bland items to avoid discomfort," Piyasak says.

The Philippine media educational tour was sponsored by Thai Airways and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

Call TAT Philippines at 911-1660, 437-5837 or (0917) 529-2480.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Gentle people's fiery food

By Rowena C. Burgos

IT WOULD not be unusual for a meal in a restaurant in Thailand to consist of the following: the stir-fried noodle dish *pad Thai*, marinated skewers of *satay* basted in coconut milk and dipped in peanut sauce, spicy-sour green papaya salad and red curry served with steamed white rice.

Pad Thai and *satay* are snack foods, the former from Thailand's central plains and the latter actually from south of the border, Malaysia. Green papaya salad comes from Northeast Thailand and is best eaten with sticky rice. Red curry is part of a multi-dish meal in central Thailand.

From culinary and cultural perspectives, Thailand is divided into four regions: North, Northeast, Central and South.

The mountainous North is influenced by neighboring Myanmar (Burma), whose food is more Indian than Thailand's. That means more cumin and turmeric. Since the North is landlocked, its cuisine is low on seafood. The colder climate means the food is somewhat heavier than that of the rest of the country. Pork fat, more commonly used as coconut milk, is scarcer than in Central and Southern Thailand. The food tends to be less spicy, less sweet, richer, and uses more vegetables and herbs with slightly bitter flavors.

The poverty-stricken Northeast is dominated by the comparatively arid Korat Plateau. Most of the people who live there are actually ethnic Lao. The cuisine is simple and unadorned. Meat, when it is available, is generally roasted over fire and served with spicy-sour sauces. The more common meal consists simply of *nam prik* and *khao niew*.

Nam prik is served in different forms in virtually every household in Thailand. It is a term for many varieties of chili-based pastes, relishes and sauces. In the Northeast, it can be as simple as chilies mashed in a mortar and pestle and flavored with fish sauce. Herbs, citrus zest, ground pork or fish, vegetables and shrimp paste can be added.

Khao niew, or sticky rice, is the starch of

choice of the Northeast. It is a completely different variety from the fragrant, fluffy jasmine rice of Thailand's Central plains. *Khao niew*, which is also popular in the North, is prepared by soaking and then steaming, rather than boiling. The rice is dense and cheaper than jasmine. It is also believed to stave off hunger longer.

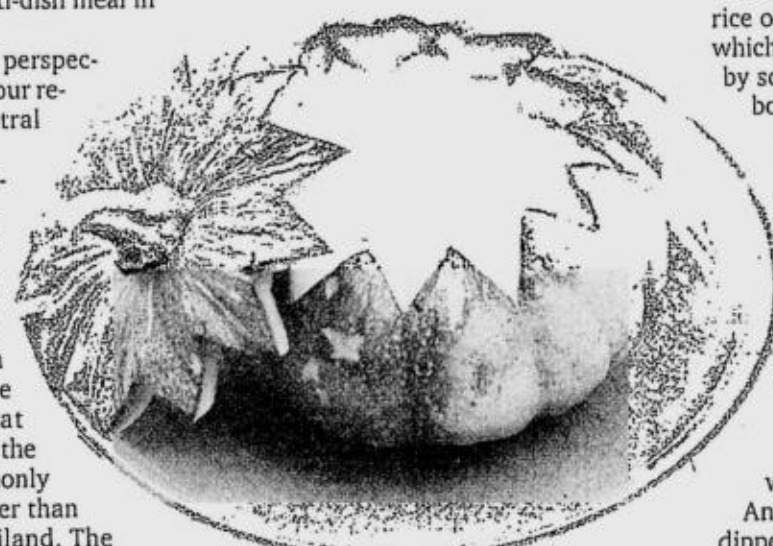
Satisfying flavors

Piyasak Ritharom, tour manager of KBS Travel and Intertrade Co. Ltd. in Bangkok, says the strong flavors of *nam prik* are useful for people who don't get a lot of protein or fat.

"They can satisfy their palate with [different] flavors," he says.

And by eating the dense sticky rice dipped in *nam prik*, "they don't have to fill their stomach with so much meat."

With Thailand's capital, Bangkok, located in the Central plains, all of the kingdom's pro-



SANGKHAYA Fakthong (Custard in
Pumpkin)

New addition to Alabang restaurant lineup

WITH THE OPENING of Italianni's Restaurant at the Alabang Town Center (ATC), those who crave Italian-American dishes can visit the mall's Corte de las Palmas restaurant row and enjoy the food choices, ambience and service Italianni's is known for. In Greenbelt 2 and Glorietta 4, Italianni's Alabang gives a complimentary serving of *focaccia* and Tuscan bread with herbed oil and balsamic vinegar dip. The same big servings of specialties like Spinach and Artichoke Formaggio, Angel Hair Pomodoro, Shrimp Fra Diavolo, Roasted Chicken Italianni's, Grilled Salmon Oreganato, Grilled Pork Chops Au Poivre and more can be shared. New additions on the menu are Linguine con Vongole, Seafood Cioppino and Rigatoni Generosa. Single servings are available for light-eaters and those on the go. The restaurant also has coffee concoctions like Amaretto Smoothie, Frappe Mocha and Kahlua Coffee Smoothie. Call 772-3320.

BLUE BACON & GREEN EGGS has received numerous requests to include on their menu a special dish of Linked Prawns in Olive Oil, Pink Peppercorns, Garlic and Chiffonade of Fresh Green Chili that used to be a part of their monthly specials. This best-selling fare can now be enjoyed by guests with Garlic Rice and Buttered Fresh Asparagus. It goes perfect with a bowl of authentic Italian Minestrone Soup and Mango and Peach Crêpes, with Vanilla Ice Cream for dessert. Blue Bacon & Green Eggs is at 27 Lantana corner Boston Streets, New

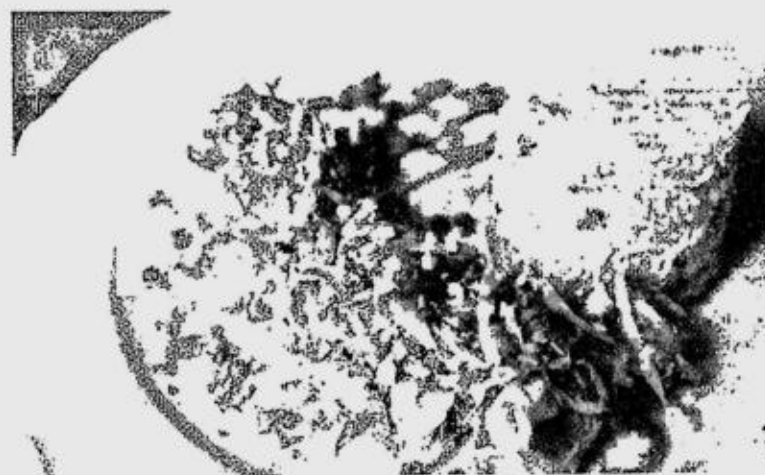
Manila, QC. It is open 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday-Sunday. Call 721-7666/2717 or 726-8054.

T.G.I. Friday's introduces tempting new dishes and great-tasting twists to some of its popular fare. These include the Spinach and Artichoke Cheese Dip, Chicken, Finger BLT, Chicken and Shrimp Diablo, and new versions of its popular burgers (Friday's Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Mushroom Onion, Cheese and Barbecue), Jack Daniel's Wings, Classic Pepperoni Pizza, Broiled Mahi-Mahi with Roasted Pepper Butter, and Filet Mignon.

Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt QC, Alabang Town Center and The Brickroad, Sta. Lucia East, there's something new to try everyday of the week.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA presents "Israel: A Culinary Potpourri," Oct. 21-31, at the Captain's Bar. Featured are popular Israeli dishes like Falafel, a deep fried mixture made of minced chickpeas, broadbeans, diced onions, lemon juice, crushed wheat flour and spices; Couscous, which consists of tiny pellets of crushed durum wheat or rice and salted water; and Tahini, an oily paste with a nutty flavor made from crushed sesame seeds mixed with mashed chickpeas, lemon juice and garlic. Baklava has chopped walnuts, almonds or pistachios, sandwiched between thin layers of filo pastry and coated in syrup.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES presents a two-week international buffet until Oct. 13. The buffet includes Grilled Rib-Eye Steak with Asparagus, bearnaise, Pata Humba with Banana Blossom, Minced Cuttlefish Steak with Citrus Sauce, Lime, Pan-fried



BLUE Bacon & Green Eggs' Linked Prawns in Olive Oil, Pink Peppercorns, Garlic and Chiffonade of Fresh Green Chili, served with garlic rice and buttered fresh asparagus



CASA Armas' Cangrejos, majestic king crab in luscious butter and garlic

Chicken Fillet with Curry Sauce, Grilled Blue Marlin with Herb Butter, Lemon, Fettucini Alfredo, Parmesan, Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom Sauce, and Fried Red Mullet with Garlic, Calamansi. Daily carvings such as Striploin with Peppercorn Sauce and Roast Veal with Mushroom Sauce are also featured. Dessert includes Blueberry Cheesecake, Key Lime Pie

and Halo-halo. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

HOLIDAY INN MANILA presents a Szechuan festival until Oct. 13 at the Pavilion Court. The festival features Braised Live Lapu-lapu with Dried Chili Hot and Sour Sauce, Fried Lobster with Chili and Cashew Nuts, Fried Scallop with Hot and Sweet

Sauce, Stir-fried Crab with Hot and Sweet Sauce, Sliced Beef with Orange Peel, Shredded Chicken with Pickled Vegetable Soup, and Braised Bean Curd with Chili. The hotel also presents "Handaang Bulacan-Pampanga," a two-week food festival until Oct. 19 at the Café Coquilla. Diners will be treated to an array of Bulacan and Pampanga dishes created by master chefs from Ciudad Clementino in Paombong, Bulacan, and Everybody's Café in San Fernando, Pampanga. Call 526-1212 local 2318.

CASA ARMAS presents the Spanish Culinary Journey promo. Travel to the best summer resort place in Spain by feasting on a platter of this month's featured dish, Cangrejos—majestic king crab in luscious butter and garlic. The promo explores Spain's rich culinary landscape with a series of nine monthly collector's postcards. Each postcard highlights a particular Spanish province and dish, and comes with special treats from the restaurant. Recipients of postcards should bring them when visiting Casa Armas. A complimentary glass of wine comes with every order of a platter of Cangrejos. Call 897-3542 (Makati branch) or 687-3665 (Ortigas branch).

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S Conway's Bar will present the weekly Red Hot Ladies Night. Women may indulge in *pica-pica* selections and take part in games and raffles. Jose Cuervo Tequila will be available to guests presented by the hunkiest male fashion models. Men who will accompany women on Saturdays will get vouchers entitling them to a complimentary drink at the Lobby Lounge, redeemable on the same evening, 7-9:30 p.m. Call 840-0884 or 813-8888 local 7588/7599.

TRADER'S CAFE offers Mongolian or shabu-shabu offerings, consisting of a selection of meats, poultry, seafood, noodles and vegetables. Guests can have as much as they want, plus appetizers and desserts, for only P450. Call 523-7011 local 2402.

YOUNG-HO PARK, the Korean master chef of the Westin Chosun Beach in Busan, South Korea, will recreate his country's classic specialties at the Westin Philippine Plaza Café Plaza's lunch and dinner buffets, Oct. 12-27. He will prepare dishes like Pechu Kimchi, Kalbee Chim and Yukwe as well as the more familiar Bulgogi. Call 551-5555 local 1531.

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA goes Portuguese until Oct. 19. Portuguese guest chef Antonio Santos will prepare for the Café Jeepney a wide range of Portuguese culinary gems à la carte and buffet-style, daily, for lunch and dinner. Portuguese wines and an à la carte menu of authentic Portuguese food will be available at the Gambirinus lobby lounge. Among those featured are Bife com Vinho do Porto (beefsteak in Porto wine sauce), Bacalhau com Natas (gratinated bacalao/codfish with cream), Feijoadade Gambas (beans and shrimps stew), Cataplana Mista (meat and seafood stewed in a special pan), Carne de Porco à Alentejana (pork chunks with clams, Alentejo-style), Acorda de Bacalhau (thick bacalao soup) and Peixe no Forno (baked snapper fish). Sobremesa (dessert) consists of Arroz Doce (rice pudding), Macas Assadas no Porno (baked apple with Port wine), Farofas (clouds), Leite Creme (gratinated sweet milk) and Baba de Carmelo (caramel sweets). Call 815-9711 local 261 to 263.

Humbled New York

From page D1

Desserts

ALMOND CAKE, APRICOT PRESERVE AND VANILLA ICE CREAM 8.
CHOCOLATE TART AND PISTACHIO ICE CREAM 8.
LEMON VERBENA PANNA COTTA AND RASPBERRIES 8.
RICOTTA FRITTERS AND STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM 8.
ICE CREAM AND SORNET 8.
BISCOTTI 7.

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Dessert wines

COTE D'AU LAYON 6.
RUESLING AUSLERS 6.
HUKELREB BURENAUSLERS 12.
MONDRIJLAC 15.
VIN SANTO 12.
BACCHETTO D'ACQUA 12.
BANYULS 8.
DULCE MONASTRELL 10.

Teas 4.

ARABICA
TIGUANATH
UJI SENCHA
JASMINE PEARL
EARL GREY

Herbal infusions 4.

LEMON VERBENA
ELDERFLOWER
WILD MINT
CHAMOMILE

Pastry Chef Karen DeMarco

PICC celebrates Spain's National Day with food festival

THE PHILIPPINE International Convention Center (PICC) is holding a Spanish food festival at its Amorsolo Restaurant until Oct 18. This event will mark Spain's National Day on Oct. 12, says PICC general manager Araceli E. Villanueva.

Via Mare, PICC's in-house catering service, will prepare first-rate ingredients that will be used to create selected dishes from some of Spain's major gastronomic zones—from the North, one of the richest culinary areas, codfish *pil-pil* and *fabada*, a magnificent bean stew. Famous casserole dishes and seafood with *aioli*, a sauce made with garlic and olive oil, is a treat from Cataluña. Rice dishes like *paella* with chicken, artichoke and red peppers, and seafood *paella* are the specialties from Valencia. From Andalucía, a refreshing *gazpacho*, an exquisite cold vegetable soup.

Cocido Madrileño is a favorite of the Filipinos, a nourishing meat and vegetable soup from Central Spain.

Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodríguez-Pantoja will grace the opening of the food festival with members of the monetary board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and other dignitaries.

Headed by culinary expert Glenda Barretto, Via Mare earned prestigious awards like the Kalakbay Hall of Fame Award. For more than 25 years, Via Mare's fine cuisine and service has become a byword. They've prepared memorable banquets to some of the world's most influential figures and dignitaries. They also cater to numerous events abroad, like the World Expo in Seville, Spain, among others.

The Spanish Food Festival is open to the public 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 834-0303 to -04.

New wines and brandies to be launched tonight

A THOUSAND wine aficionados and select personalities are set to attend the launch of Torres wines and brandies at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio tonight.

Dubbed "Ten at the Tent," the cocktail event will launch the Torres 10 Gran Reserva, Torres' most famous brandy, along with Sangre de Toro, Vina Sol, Vina Esmeralda, Gran Coronas, Cabernet Sauvignon and Mas La Planar Cabernet Sauvignon.

Torres S.A.'s international sales and marketing director Jorge Grosse, top executive Luis de Javier and Spain's wine expert Sergio Fiorentini will be flying in from Spain to grace the party. Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodríguez-Pantoja will be the guest of honor. The guest list also in-

cludes members of the diplomatic community, distinguished government officials, personalities from business and society, and loyal clients of Torres wines. Violinist John Lesaca will perform and a unique dance using barrels of grapes will be featured.

Torres S.A. is perhaps the largest producer of wines and brandies in Cataluña, Spain, where the Torres family has been producing wines since the 17th century. ATR World's Best Wines and Spirits, headed by its president Arthur T. Reyes, and general manager Dr. Ruel Reyes, is the exclusive Philippine importer and distributor of Torres wines and brandies. At present, the Philippines is the biggest market for Torres brandy outside of Spain and Mexico. Call 844-9101.

caterplan®



Culinary Grand Prix 2003

CGP2003 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Luzon - January 13, 2003
Saint Michael's College of Laguna - Bifan, Laguna

Visayas - January 27, 2003
Univ. of Cebu ICTC Banilad Campus - Cebu City

Mindanao - February 10, 2003
Univ. of the Immaculate Conception - Davao City

National Capital Region - February 24, 2003
College of the Holy Spirit, Manila

Grand Finals - March 10, 2003
Phil. Trade & Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

CGP2003 REGIONAL HOST SCHOOLS



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CGP2003 PROGRAM PARTNERS:



BEAT THE OCTOBER 22 DEADLINE!

The Culinary Grand Prix (CGP) is the ONLY collegiate culinary competition that focuses on cooking as a TRADE. Endorsed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) nationwide, CGP is open to all colleges and universities offering HRM or culinary courses! Three competitions make up the CGP2003 - the trailblazing Caterplan Dream Team Challenge Competition, the creative Knorr New Asia Cuisine and the exciting Lipton Mocktail Mixing Competition! Exciting prizes await the winners for the National Grand Finals. Cash prizes as much as P45,000.00 for a single team of 3, gift packs, trophies and an Asian Trip in April 2003 awaits all national champion teams and their coaches! No participation fees! Nationwide Coverage!

THE CGP2003 SPECIAL AWARDS!

Caterplan proudly announces the CGP2003 special awards up for grabs to all Regional Champion Teams in the National Grand Finals!

The Caltex "Sulit sa Gamit" Award (Caterplan Dream Team Competition) - An all expense-paid local holiday trip awaits the team with the the lowest priced menu and highest score in taste from the official supplier of cooking gas for the CGP2003.

The Heritage Hotel Manila Culinary Showcase Award (Caterplan Dream Team Competition) - Gift certificates to the team with the highest combined points in plating, table setting and drink presentation from the official hotel of CGP2003.

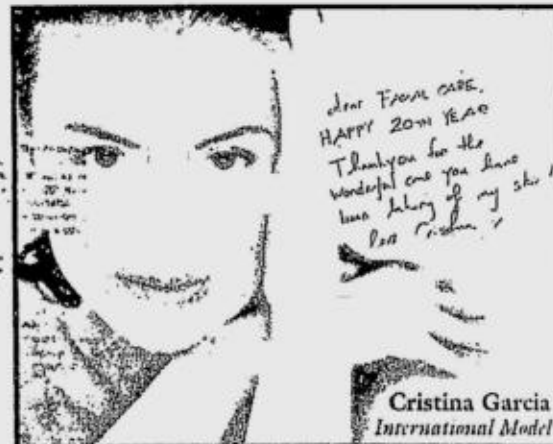
The Taste of Italy Asian Fusion Award (Knorr New Asia Cuisine Competition) - Gift packs to the team with the highest presentation points from the country's top importer of foodservice supplies and equipment from Europe.

The Joey Tapster in Training Award (Lipton Mocktail Mixing Competition) - A special plaque to the student bartender with the highest score in flaring from the official radio of CGP2003.

For CGP information and CGP updates, visit: <http://www.culinarygrandprix.net>
For complete competition rules and mechanics, write to: Culinary Grand Prix c/o P.O. Box 2333 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
For phone inquiries, please call the CGP2003 hotlines: (Globe) 0916-6291901, (Smart) 0919-896855 or (Landline) (02)7571508 or email the organizers at organizers@culinarygrandprix.net

"Thank you Facial Care Centre!"

So many reasons. Only one skincare expert to thank - Facial Care Centre. Here, women who have been with the country's leading skincare center for years, talk about their favorite treatments, their satisfaction, and why they continue to trust only Facial Care Centre.



Cristina Garcia
International Model

"I've been with Facial Care Centre for almost a decade now, and up to this day, I'm very happy with what their treatments do to my skin. Skin Tone Re-energizer, for example, really keeps my skin younger-looking. I always say -- it's like an instant face-lift!"

IRENE SALUD
Businesswoman



"When you're in your 30s and everyone tells you that you could still pass for a college student, you couldn't be happier!"

Its got to be Lasertone for me. It has visible effect on my skin, I can really feel! When you're in your 30s and everyone tells you that you could still pass for a college student, you couldn't be happier!"

JENNY SARMIENTO-ICASAS
Jeweller

"Women from work cornered me once, asking me how I'm able to maintain my flawless, young-looking skin. I was forced to spill my secret. Now they go for Firming Facials even more often than I do!"

PAMELA BARICUATRO
International Flight Stewardess

"Now I know my unwanted hair won't ever be coming back. It's really worth it!"

"I used to wax twice a week because I was really balbon (hairy), and I was so tired of it. So I was really glad when I heard that LaserLight Hair Removal is already available in the Philippines. Now I know my unwanted hair won't ever be coming back. It's really worth it!"

ANA ROCES
Actress



"I'm really happy with what Lymphatic Drainage Treatment does to my skin. It gets rid of puffiness and undereye circles. With fresh-looking skin, who would believe I get up at night to attend to my baby?"

ANGEL LESACA-ROSALES
Homemaker

"I like the immediate results of Power Peel. It gives my skin a rosy blush right after the treatment, up until the next morning. I feel really beautiful! And radiant!"

DINAH DOMINGUEZ
Businesswoman

"It gives my skin a rosy blush right after the treatment, up until the next morning."

Indeed, 20 years of successful Reverse Ageing proves Facial Care Centre to be the unparalleled leader in the beauty and skin improvement industry. Why would you trust anyone else?

To schedule an appointment, just dial the Facial Care Centre branch nearest you:
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Alabang - 8421144 / 8099583
Binondo - 2438138 / 2438602
Congressional - 9207938 / 9207992
Pampanga - 9613404 / 8602663
Cebu - 2337631 / 2337633



"I really love Power Peel and what it does to my skin! As hosting gets my face magnified on TV, I surely can't tolerate flaws. And Power Peel takes care of that. It gives me blemish-free, radiant skin. I've been with Facial Care Centre for years and I must admit that until now, they never cease to amaze me with the new treatments they offer. They really got me hooked. And this time, I'm hooked on Power Peel."

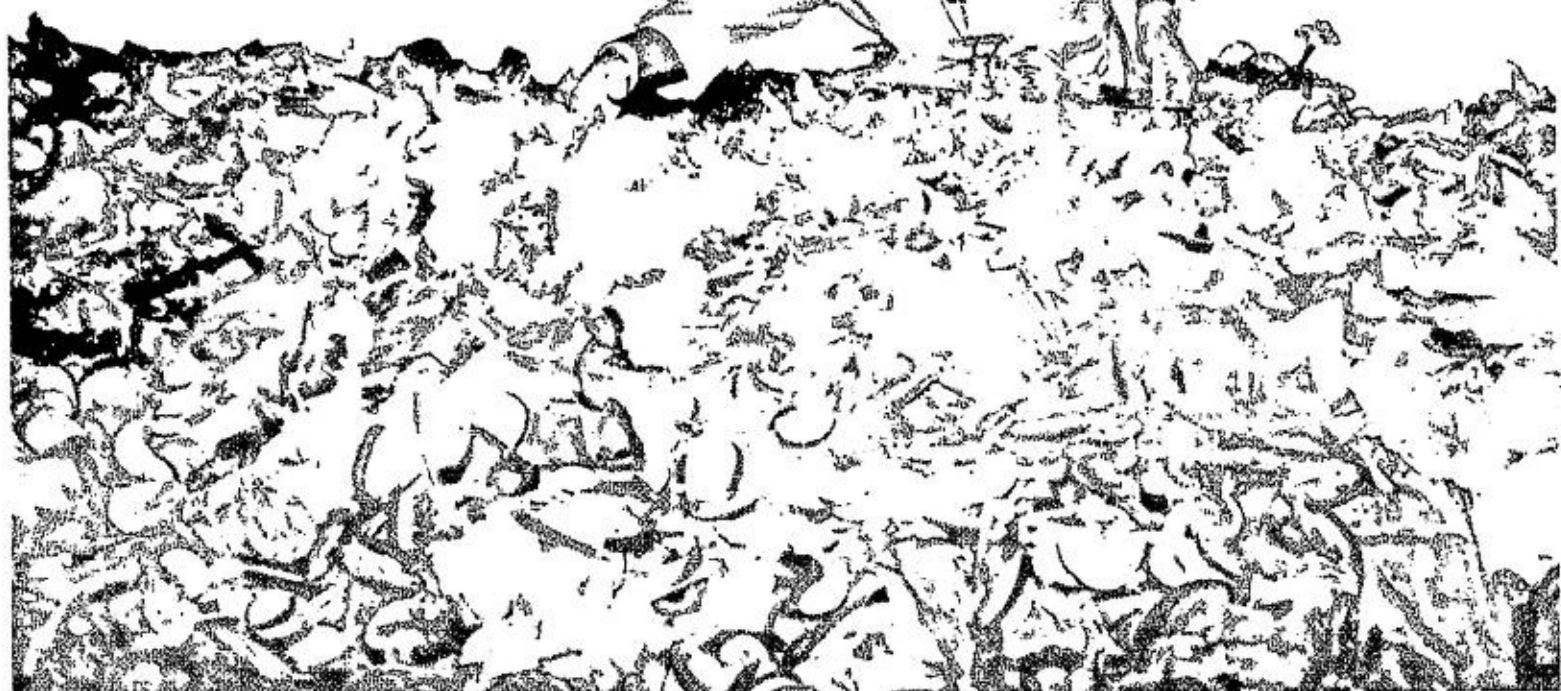
APRIL MARCIAL-STEWART
TV Host

"My favorite treatment right now is the Repechage 4-Layer Facial Treatment. It really makes my skin soft and supple. I always tell my mom, my sister, my mother-in-law, my friends... almost everyone actually, to try it. I say you'll really be satisfied. I'm really satisfied!"



CHRISTINE ALDEGUER
Homemaker

CHEF Abelardo Quiambao
with the giant tossed salad



SACKS and kaings of veggies from Cordillera farms



HOTEL and restaurant management students from the University of Baguio volunteer in preparing fresh lettuce from the Benguet farmers.

How to toss a super salad

Text by Gobleth Moulie
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
Photos by Toots Soberano

WHEN the City of Pines tossed the largest salad for the second year, health buffs and vegetarians alike filled their stomachs with "everything green." This year, local and foreign tourists who flocked to the Baguio Convention Center to be part of this city's entry to the Guinness Book of World Records went home happy and satisfied as they savored two choices of dressings: Thousand Island and vinaigrette.

Amid reports that smuggled Australian and Chinese vegetables had flooded the local mar-

kets, the Baguio Association of Hotels and Inns (Bahai) that organized the Tossed Salad Festival said they used homegrown vegetables for the festival.

Chef Abelardo Quiambao of El Cielito Inn, who supervised the tossed salad that fed more than 8,000 people, said the carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce and bell peppers they used were fresh and were bought directly from the Cordillera farmers.

Quiambao said Zeni Kurosawa, a culinary arts teacher at the University of Baguio (UB), concocted a "mystery recipe" for the vinaigrette dressing.

The mystery dressing, Quiambao said, included soy sauce and pineapple juice because these ingredients appealed to the palates of sweet-toothed Filipinos.

As early as 4 a.m. on a rainy Sunday, Quiambao, along with chef Paul Poblador of Salud Bistro and 65 hotel and restaurant man-



GIRLS in Ibaloi dresses sample the tossed salad.

agement students of UB, was busy washing the vegetables in chlorinated water.

Armed with gloves, mask and caps to ensure sanitation, the volunteers cut, chopped and sliced 2,976 kg of Cordillera vegetables and threw them in a 20' x 10' wide and 2' deep bowl covered with aluminum foil and banana leaves.

The three chefs made sure that the dressing they had prepared was enough for 15,000 servings.

So what's the recipe for a giant salad? Two tons of Benguet lettuce, young carrots, cucumber, green bell pepper and tomatoes in a



FEMALE volunteers slice thousands of tomatoes in large chopping boards.

10' x 20' bowl, with spoons the size of pizza paddles to mix in the many gallons of dressing, that had, for the Thousand Island dressing, mayonnaise, catsup, salt, white pepper, sweet pickles, chopped onion, hardboiled eggs and pineapple juice; and for the vinaigrette dressing, apple cider vinegar, extra virgin olive oil, soy sauce, white pepper, salt, chopped onion, parsley, chive and basil.

Pietro Coricelli olive oil, one of the major sponsors of the event, provided Italian olive oil to give the salad that special gourmet touch. When Mike Villanueva of Fly Ace Corp. (Philippine Importers of Pietro Coricelli) was asked why they decided to participate, he commented: "Well, if you're going to relish the world's largest salad, you might as well eat it with the world's best salad dressing."

In the end, the hardworking chefs and prep-staff triumphed, crushing the old record, proving once and for all that Baguio's title, "The salad bowl of the Philippines," is well deserved.



MEMBERS of the Baguio Association of Hotels and Inns: Gerry Beltran, Paul Poblador, Jal Martinez, Janine Chan, John Thomas Gonzales and Dr. Might Gupit

Special Treat

Simple Food Safety Tips

A great number of college students across the country mostly stay in dorm or share apartments. The Purefoods-Hormel Co. offers tips for students surviving without Mom around. Start practicing proper food safety habits when attempting to recreate Mom's best recipe in the dorm or apartment.

1. Wash hands with soap and water before, during and after preparing a meal.
2. Always clean appliances and countertops before using to prepare and cook foods.
3. Separate uncooked foods from cooked and ready-to-eat foods to minimize cross-contamination that can lead to food poisoning.

Recipe

CEASAR POTATO SALAD

You will need:

- 6 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon anchovy paste
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- About 1/2 kilo potatoes, boiled and cut into 1" cubes
- 1/4 cup cooked and chopped PUREFOODS HONEYCURED BACON
- 1 tablespoon chopped chives

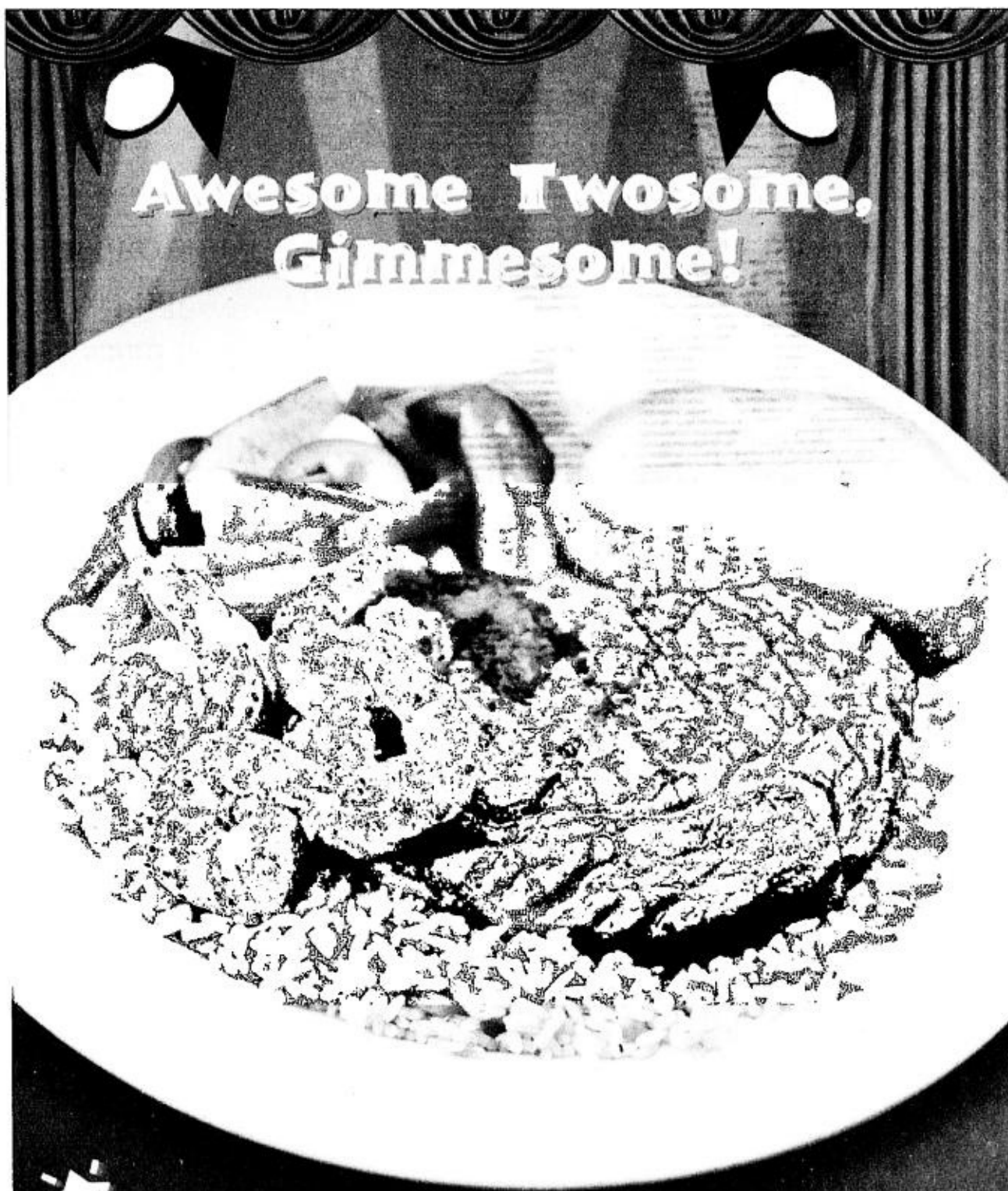
Here's how:

In a bowl, combine mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, anchovy paste and garlic. Mix well. Add potatoes, PUREFOODS HONEYCURED BACON and chives and toss. Chill then serve. Makes 4 servings.

PUREFOODS HONEYCURED BACON

The country's best-loved bacon. It has a select combination of honey-flavored sweetness and pleasingly salty crispness. Perfect for breakfast and other times of the day as well. It comes in 200g to 500g retail packs and 1kg bulk pack. It is available in leading supermarkets, groceries and wet markets nationwide.

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